

of airline service it is important that new training requirements have their desired effect of improving safety while avoiding any unintended consequences that may decrease the number of skilled pilots.

Specifically it is my concern that students looking to get their pilots license could be forced by financial considerations to attend pilot training programs with an emphasis of meeting the flight hour requirements inexpensively by flying straight and level courses without mastering important safety skills.

I support provisions that specify that certain academic training courses can be credited towards the total number of flight hours required by this Act. I believe that this language should be further improved through the normal legislative process to ensure that high-quality outcome orientated training programs are given more credit towards this requirement than other programs.

While I will be voting in favor of this legislation in order to ensure that funding for Federal Aviation Administration, FAA programs that support aviation operations in North Dakota do not lapse, I believe it is important that new safety requirements are appropriately constructed to recognize the tremendous benefits that our nation's accredited flight schools provide.

ASSISTANCE, QUALITY, AND AFFORDABILITY ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to thank Chairman WAXMAN and Chairman MARKKEY, and their capable staffs, for working with my office over the past year to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to avoid a repeat of the outrageous abuse of the public trust that left many of my constituents in Crestwood, IL, without clean drinking water for over 20 years.

In 1986, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was alerted that Village of Crestwood officials were piping in contaminated drinking water to its citizens.

Despite warnings from the state agency to end this illegal practice, incredibly, it took another 20 years, and a personal investigation from a courageous and determined private citizen, my constituent, Tricia Krause, before the state finally went back out to inspect the water supply and found that contaminated water was still being used. Twenty years!!!

Mr. Speaker, my amendment to H.R. 5320, which was adopted unanimously in committee, will compel the U.S. EPA to issue a final rule, within 12 months, requiring public water systems and states agencies to submit all compliance monitoring data electronically.

This will allow the U.S. EPA to update their systems to gather accurate and timely data collection so they are able to act more quickly and effectively against violations, especially when the public's health is in jeopardy.

This bill will also require U.S. EPA to categorize any violations of federal drinking standards and determine what types of follow-up inspections are needed, as well as the frequency of inspections the state will need to carry out, depending on the risk to public health.

By enacting this bill, as Representatives of the people, we will be able to better ensure that all citizens have access to clean, safe drinking water, and that the outrageous acts that resulted in the toxic contamination of Crestwood drinking water are never repeated.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill.

CELEBRATING THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BILL SIGNING OF MEDICARE AND MEDICAID LEGISLATION

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to speak on acknowledgement of the 45th Anniversary of the signing of the Medicare and Medicaid legislation.

In 1965, the United States Congress made a commitment to our nation's most vulnerable citizens when it passed into law legislation that created Medicare and Medicaid as part of the Social Security Act. We as a nation decided that the elderly, poor children, the blind, and the disabled would never be denied proper medical care because of their inability to pay. When President Lyndon Johnson signed the bill and made it law on July 30, 1965, millions of elderly and poor people were spared needless worry and suffering. It was one of our nation's finest moments. We displayed the compassion and will that makes this country great. Access to adequate health care is a right not a privilege.

Please join me today in commemoration of the 45th anniversary of the bill signing for Medicare and Medicaid.

JAMES ZADROGA 9/11 HEALTH AND COMPENSATION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, we all agree that those who heroically responded to the 9/11 terrorist attacks should get the treatment, compensation, and liability protection they need. The American people are grateful to those the ground zero workers and the emergency responders that worked heroically, day and night, for months in rescue, recovery and cleanup efforts at the World Trade Center site. Unfortunately, the approach this bill takes to accomplish these goals is unreasonable and irresponsible.

During committee hearings on reenacting the 9/11 Fund, I expressed the view that if the fund is reenacted, it must be done in a manner that properly compensates the victims while at the same time protecting the taxpayers.

First, I asserted that if the Fund is reenacted it must provide adequate compensation to the victims without handing the keys to the U.S. Treasury to trial lawyers. Unfortunately, this bill does not contain these protections. Rather, the bill allows trial lawyers to request com-

pensation from the fund for work that is not directly related to their clients' recovery from the fund.

Second, I stated that if the Fund is reenacted it must include provisions that will protect the U.S. taxpayers. However, instead of protecting the taxpayers, this bill abdicates Congress' legislative authority to the unreviewable and virtually unbounded discretion of the Special Master.

Third, I counseled that if the Fund is reenacted it should be for a reasonable, but limited, period of time. Once again the authors of this legislation did not listen to my advice; rather, they propose to keep the fund open for 21 years despite congressional testimony by Special Master Ken Feinberg that "no latent claims need such an extended date."

Finally, I suggested that if the fund is reenacted it should be paid for. Apparently, the bill's authors listened to me on this count, but unfortunately, rather than choosing a pay-for that protects U.S. taxpayers, they have chosen one that will actually cost American jobs.

We could be considering a reasonable consensus proposal to reenact the 9/11 Fund today. Instead, I have to urge my colleagues to oppose this legislation because not only does it fail to protect the taxpayers, but it also fails to ensure that those REAL victims that answered the call of duty on September 11, 2001, will actually get the care that they deserve. Unfortunately, we have brought a bill to the floor today that will cost American jobs and creates gimmicks to hide the bill's true cost.

The taxpayers and those who responded to the 9/11 attacks deserve better.

HONORING CHIEF JUDGE DANNY DAVIS FOR HIS TWENTY-SIX YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Judge Danny Davis for his twenty six years of service as the Chief District Court Judge of the 30th Judicial District in Western North Carolina. During his thirty one years of experience in the courtroom Judge Davis distinguished himself as a superior legal mind, as well as a patient, restrained, and fair jurist.

In the eyes of Judge Davis, an effective judge must listen to both sides of an argument and form a sound legal opinion based on fact, while also maintaining a courteous and respectful demeanor. Holding true to his words, Judge Davis is best known for his fairness and sound reasoning.

Judge Davis has always strived to improve society, leaving his community better than he found it. Throughout his career, Davis has exemplified the highest standard of legal excellence, maintaining the strongest sense of character while reaching a consensus.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Judge Davis on his retirement. He has exemplified real leadership in his ability to ensure that the utmost fairness is in our nation's judicial system. It is truly an honor to recognize him for his many years of service and dedication to Western North Carolina, and I urge my colleagues to support this remarkable jurist.

REVITALIZING CITIES AND TOWNS BY BRINGING BUSINESS BACK

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, today I introduce a bill to help our commercial neighborhoods to recover the economic activity they have lost during the Great Recession. When the economy tumbled and unemployment rose to the highest level seen in a generation, businesses were forced to close their doors, transforming once-thriving commercial streets into quiet avenues with "For Rent" signs.

My bill encourages private investors to develop land and vacant properties that have had no substantial economic activity for at least two years by exempting them from taxes for up to ten years.

Proper tax incentives can ignite an economic renaissance in our cities and towns by nurturing private investment and enterprise. This is the best government stimulus I know.

CONGRATULATING THE JEFFERSON DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF FLUSHING ON THEIR 100TH ANNI- VERSARY

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the Jefferson Democratic Club of Flushing, Inc. Representing Part A of the 26th Assembly District of New York, the Jefferson Democratic Club has fiercely and tirelessly advocated on every level for the interests of the Queens and greater New York City communities.

Speaker Tip O'Neil once observed that "all politics is local." Organizations like the Jefferson Democratic Club are local politics' driving force. Without the hard work, enthusiasm, and dedication of the men and women of political organizations like the Jefferson Democratic Club, the gears of our democracy would grind to a halt.

Founded on June 14th, 1910 during the Republican Administration of William Howard Taft, the Jefferson Dems have been championing democratic values at the grassroots level for generations. Serving the areas of Auburndale, Bay Terrace, Bayside, Douglaston, Floral Park, Flushing, Little Neck, New Hyde Park, North Shore Towers, and Whitestone, they are a staple of the community and an invaluable asset to the people they represent. In recent years, the Club has participated in annual gift drives benefiting hospitalized war veterans; toy and clothing drives to assist hospitalized and needy children and the children of troops currently serving overseas; and many other important community programs.

I am proud to recognize such a prestigious organization and congratulate current District Leaders Joseph Bechtold and Ann-Margaret Carrozza; incoming District Leaders, Michael Sais and Carol Gresser; President, David Fisher; and all the members of the Jefferson Democratic Club of Flushing for their one hun-

dred years of service to the people of Queens County, New York City, and New York State. I hope to see the good work continue for one hundred more. I ask that my colleagues in the House to join me and rise in recognition of the Jefferson Democratic Club of Flushing's centennial anniversary.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF CEIL STEINBERG

HON. RON KLEIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, we rise today to honor the life and memory of an extraordinary member of our South Florida community.

Ceil Steinberg passed away this week at the age of 82, leaving behind a legacy of service and strength.

Throughout Ceil's remarkable life, she maintained a steadfast commitment to serving our Nation's veterans. She served as President of the Ladies National Auxiliary of the Jewish War Veterans, and continued to be active in our local veterans community into her 80s.

Ceil's two wonderful daughters, Circuit Court Judge Debra Nelson and her sister Anita Kahn, who has taught in South Florida public schools for over 30 years, blessed their mom with 4 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren, who Ceil adored.

When we think of public service, we think of Ceil, and her determination to give back, especially to those who have served our Nation in uniform.

We want to express our deep personal condolences to all of Ceil's family, and her beloved partner Bill Kling, who is also a fixture in our local veterans' community.

We will miss seeing Ceil, but the light of her legacy will continue to burn brightly well into the future.

JAMES ZADROGA 9/11 HEALTH AND COMPENSATION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for H.R. 847, the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act of 2009, which amends the Public Health Service Act to extend and improve protections and services to individuals directly impacted by the terrorist attack in New York City on September 11, 2001. The effects of H.R. 847 will be twofold: it will mandate funding to establish the World Trade Center Health Programs, and it will reopen the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund. Both provisions are necessary to sufficiently care for the health and economic welfare of the Americans who were victims of the September 11 attacks and who responded in the aftermath of the attacks. This act guarantees America's heroes—who have sacrificed so much for our country—the medical and financial support they deserve.

As we approach the ninth anniversary of the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center (WTC), it is especially important that Congress remember that there are survivors of and responders to the attacks who continue to suffer today. These victims may experience a long-term negative impact on their health many years into the future. For the first seven years after September 11, the Bush administration failed to respond adequately to the medical emergency caused by dangerous airborne toxins at Ground Zero. Americans from every state and every walk of life have been affected by those toxins, and over 71,000 people have enrolled in the WTC Health Registry because of their condition. Toxin-related illnesses include respiratory, gastrointestinal, and mental-health disease. Additionally, these illnesses have caused financial loss for many survivors and responders, 11,000 of whom have sued the City of New York because they have no viable alternative for receiving compensation. H.R. 847 will deal thoroughly and effectively with each of these problems.

Title I of H.R. 847 provides mandatory funding for the establishment of the World Trade Center Health Programs. These programs will provide consistent and readily available medical treatment for the September 11 survivors and those who responded in the aftermath of the attacks, many of whom suffer egregiously from the airborne toxins present at Ground Zero. H.R. 847 will also strengthen the medical monitoring and treatment programs and other social services programs for survivors already in place at the Clinical Centers of Excellence in New York City. Title I goes on to establish a WTC National Responder Program, which will give eligible survivors and responders who live outside of the New York City metro area access to a nationwide network of healthcare providers associated with the 9/11 Health and Compensation Act. Additionally, Title I provides for research into health problems related to the September 11 attacks, so that legislators, doctors, survivors, and responders can be better informed about the nature of these conditions.

Title II of H.R. 847 will reopen the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund (VCF), which closed in 2003, until 2031. The original deadline prevented survivors and responders who did not file a claim before the deadline, or who became ill after the deadline, to receive compensation for losses sustained as a result of the attacks. Reopening the fund will not change eligibility standards for compensation; rather, doing so will ensure that anyone eligible for compensation at any point receives the best care and support possible. The newly reopened VCF will also allow for the offsetting of over 11,000 lawsuits filed by survivors and responders suffering from the effects of WTC toxins.

Title III of the bill ensures that its \$7.7 billion cost is fully paid for by preventing a form of tax evasion called "treaty shopping." This makes the bill pay-as-you-go neutral, and thus amenable to Congress' goals of intelligent spending and fiscal responsibility.

The attacks on the World Trade Center irrevocably changed the lives of all Americans. As a result, we see the world from a markedly different perspective, and we have entered two expensive and bloody wars. The number of lives lost in Iraq and Afghanistan, added to the toll taken by the attacks themselves, is a devastating tragedy. But, with the passage of