

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 ANNIVERSARY

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

this bill, we can stop any more victims of the September 11 attacks from dying or continuing to suffer. We must be able to look back on our legislative record and say that we assured justice to the heroes of 9/11, who stood on the front lines as America came under siege.

I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution.

100,000 HOMES CAMPAIGN AND THANKING COMMON GROUND AND PINE STREET INN FOR THEIR EFFORTS ON THIS INITIATIVE

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. CAPUANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the “100,000 Homes Campaign”, an effort to address homelessness in America by providing permanent shelter for 100,000 homeless persons over the next three years. In Boston, the Pine Street Inn, a non-profit organization in my district that has been fighting homelessness for over 40 years, is acting as the lead local agency for this national initiative. Rosanne Haggerty, President and Founder of the New York based nonprofit Common Ground, launched the campaign in Washington, D.C. on July 12th at the Annual Conference of the National Alliance to End Homelessness. So far 34 communities have signed on to participate. In just the short time since the campaign’s start, over 5,000 people nationwide have received housing assistance.

The Pine Street Inn was founded in 1969 and provides low-cost permanent housing for homeless individuals. The organization also assists over 10,000 homeless individuals annually by offering emergency shelter, food and health care related services. Mental health and substance abuse counseling are also available through the Pine Street Inn.

Too many Americans are struggling with homelessness and this initiative will help reduce the ranks of the homeless throughout the country. I commend the Pine Street Inn and Common Ground for their tireless efforts and their compassion. Their combined work and the efforts of so many dedicated organizations throughout the country will help make the “100,000 Homes Campaign” a success.

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, the American people want to know: where are the jobs?

I do not understand why the Obama Administration and Congressional Democrats have pursued jobs-killing policies such as a government take-over of health care, a national energy tax, a financial regulatory bill that enshrines us as a bailout nation; and are doing nothing to stop the largest tax increase in American history scheduled for the end of this year. These policies have injected uncertainty into the economy, causing nearly \$2 trillion in private capital to stay on the sidelines.

We just learned this morning that in the 2nd quarter this year, GDP grew at 2.4%. While this is better than no growth, it is down from the 3.7% in the first quarter. This recovery defies conventional wisdom, which is the deeper the recession, the stronger the recovery.

The Obama Administration and Washington Democrats have declared their stimulus bill and other economic policies a success. However, the American people have declared them a failure.

RECOGNIZING CLENET INTERNATIONAL, LLC FOR RECEIVING THE MINORITY GLOBAL TECHNOLOGY FIRM OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. ROSKAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate CleNET International, LLC for being selected by the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Minority Business Development Agency to receive the Minority Global Technology Firm of the Year Award.

Headquartered in Oakbrook, Illinois, CleNET Technologies is one of the top technical service providers in the area of globally sourced consulting, software development, testing and system integration. They have become a leading global delivery partner with clients from all over the world.

This particular award was created to recognize minority entrepreneurs who have exemplified leadership in their industry, success as a business and who have had a positive impact on their communities.

CleNET has played an integral role in creating jobs and sustaining the local economy. I would like to recognize the admirable work of owners Jeff Fang and Michael Yuan who have built this business to be as successful as it is today, employing over 1,100 people worldwide.

Madam Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, please join me on this special occasion in paying tribute to CleNET International, LLC for their superior achievements.

CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY MEETINGS IN LATVIA AND BILATERAL VISIT TO MONTENEGRO

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, from May 28–June 3, I led a House delegation to NATO Parliamentary Assembly (NATO PA) meetings in Riga, Latvia, and to additional bilateral meetings in Podgorica, Montenegro. The U.S. delegation to the NATO PA had a highly successful trip during which we examined a range of political, economic, and security issues currently confronting the Alliance, as well as NATO and U.S. policy in Montenegro and the Western Balkans.

The NATO Parliamentary Assembly consists of members of parliament from the 28 NATO

states, as well as members of parliament from candidate state Macedonia (or Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, FYROM), and other associated states such as Russia, Georgia, and Ukraine. I currently have the honor of serving as President of the Assembly. In this capacity, I preside over meetings during which delegates discuss and debate a range of issues of importance to the Alliance. During the NATO PA’s two annual plenary sessions, delegates also have the opportunity to listen to presentations by specialists on NATO affairs and to offer guidance to NATO leadership in Brussels. An additional element of the meetings is the opportunity to meet and develop relationships with members of parliament who play important foreign policy roles in their own countries. These responsibilities can include setting defense budgets and determining the operational restrictions placed on deployed forces. Some of the acquaintances made through the NATO PA can last the duration of a career, and are invaluable for gaining insight into developments in allied states.

Discussions during the NATO PA’s annual spring meeting focused on the key issues currently facing the Alliance. These include: the drafting of a new Strategic Concept for NATO; NATO’s ongoing stabilization mission in Afghanistan; NATO’s evolving relations with Russia; and the effects of the global economic downturn on national security and allied commitments to NATO. More specific issues such as the Alliance’s nuclear weapons posture, missile defense, and emerging security challenges such as piracy and cyber and energy security were also discussed by the delegates.

At NATO’s 60th anniversary summit in April 2009, the leaders of NATO’s 28 member states tasked the NATO Secretary General with producing a new Strategic Concept for the Alliance. The re-writing of the Strategic Concept, which was last updated in 1999, offers NATO a chance to lay out a clarified vision of its role in the 21st century security environment. Heads of state from the NATO member states are expected to approve a new Strategic Concept at their November 2010 summit in Lisbon. In April 2010, NATO PA representatives presented NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen with the Assembly’s recommendations for a new Strategic Concept. There is broad agreement within the NATO PA that the new Strategic Concept should re-affirm NATO’s primary role as a military alliance devoted to ensuring the collective defense and security of its members. In this regard, Article 5 of NATO’s founding North Atlantic Treaty—which states that an attack on one is an attack on all—remains NATO’s core principle. Our delegation emphasized that in the face of new and emerging security challenges, the Alliance must also continue to broaden the traditional Cold War concept of collective defense to include security threats such as terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, cyber-security, and energy security. In this regard, territorial defense can no longer be separated from “out-of-area” security concerns. Members of our delegation also highlighted the importance of developing and maintaining the capabilities necessary to achieve NATO’s stated objectives.

The key issue facing the Alliance continues to be NATO’s effort to bring security and stability to Afghanistan. Approximately 120,000 troops from 46 countries currently serve in NATO’s International Security Assistance