

gain in the lab and apply it in a true-fielded application at an affordable cost. The Hyper-IFP system will also be environmentally hardened to allow field deployment and allow integration with other FP sensors in the last quarter of 2009. Hyper-IFP is focused on the missions of Perimeter Security, Suicide Bomb Detection and Urban Route Recon. Utility will be demonstrated through an evaluation in both the Southwest border and contingency mission in Southwest Asia. This effort will require leveraging the current Force Protection sensor suite designs for the missions sites to maintain interoperability. In the end, this request focuses on both achieving data verification, and the delivery of sufficient hardware to validate the Technical Data package for re-procurement as well as demonstrate the system's ability to deploy to DoD/DHS users for the missions described. The Night Vision Electronic Sensors Directorate, Ft. Belvoir Virginia, is very supportive of this project.

HONORING THE TALL PINE COUNCIL

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 2010

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Tall Pine Council as they celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America. To mark the occasion an exhibition at the Alfred P. Sloan Museum in Flint, Michigan will begin on Monday, February 8th to honor the contributions of Boy Scouts and the Tall Pine Council.

W.D. Boyce incorporated the Boy Scouts of America on February 8, 1910 and a tradition of service, character development, citizenship and physical fitness began. The Boy Scouts of America spread and by 1912 there were troops in all states. Over the past 100 years the Boy Scouts of America has performed invaluable service to the people of our nation. They provided nationwide service during the 1918 influenza epidemic and collected over 1 million items of food and clothing to help the needy and suffering during the 1930s. Boy Scouts worked with the Office of Civil Defense Mobilization as messengers, emergency medical personnel and firefighters during World War II. This tradition of service continues today with the Boy Scouts of America partnering with the Salvation Army, the American Red Cross and Habitat for Humanity for the national Good Turn for America program to address the problems of hunger, homelessness and poor health. In addition, Boy Scouts are assisting with relief efforts for the victims of the earthquake in Haiti.

The first troop in the Flint area was formed in 1912 at the Oak Park Methodist Church. Troops operated independently until 1917 when the Flint Council was formed. Approximately 248 scouts participated in activities during this time. During the Council's first five years there were 63 units formed and 2,720 boys participated including spending time at the Boy Scout Camp on Lobdell Lake. The Flint Council quickly grew and eventually covered Genesee, Lapeer and Shiawassee Counties. In 1937 the Council was renamed the Tall

Pine Council. Currently the Tall Pine Council operates Camp Holaka near Lapeer and Camp Tapico near Kalkaska.

Over the past 100 years the Boy Scouts of the Tall Pine Council have joined their fellow scouts working for our nation by selling bonds during the two World Wars, distributing get-out-the-vote door hangers, collecting food and working on community beautification projects. They raise money through their annual popcorn sales to support their packs and troops. During 2009, the Tall Pine Council served over 11,000 youngsters, 77 boys earned the Eagle Scout distinction and 200 boys earned the Cub Scout's Arrow of Light Award. More than 3,000 adults serve as role models and mentors, I have served as a Boy Scout adult volunteer, and a member of my staff, Lucetia Manwaring, is currently a Cub Scout Den Mother.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to rise with me and applaud the achievements, perseverance and pride of the Tall Pine Council and the Boy Scouts of America. For 100 years they have helped youngsters grow into enthusiastic, caring men committed to community service, and preserving our natural resources. I commend them for the wonderful work they do and hope they will continue for many, many years to come.

ON THE RETIREMENT OF JOHN HOSKINS

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 2010

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, it has come to my attention that John Hoskins has recently retired as the Director of Missouri's Department of Conservation after a career in conservation that spans more than three decades. A steadfast steward of Missouri's beautiful natural resources, Mr. Hoskins has spent his life protecting our environment so that future generations may enjoy Missouri's God-given beauty.

A lifelong Missourian, Mr. Hoskins grew up on a small Ozark farm where he learned the value of a clean environment and the special connection we enjoy with our natural surroundings. After graduating with a bachelor's degree from Southeast Missouri State University in 1975, he went on to complete a Master of Public Administration degree at my alma mater, the University of Missouri.

Throughout his tenure with the department, Mr. Hoskins has balanced competing priorities with a fixed budget. Under his leadership, the department has expanded conservation education facilities across the state and created new school programs to teach young Missourians the importance of caring for our precious natural resources.

On a personal note, the magazine of the Department of Conservation, the Missouri Conservationist, has been a mainstay of my office for many years now. My fellow Missourians and I have long enjoyed the magazine's interesting articles and the beautiful pictures of Missouri's great outdoors.

Madam Speaker, I trust my fellow members of the House will join me in recognizing John

Hoskins, a man who has dedicated his life to the effective stewardship of Missouri's environment.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TRANSPORTATION TRADES DEPARTMENT, AFL-CIO

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 2010

Mr. THOMPSON OF MISSISSIPPI. Madam Speaker, this year marks the 20th anniversary of the Transportation Trades Department of the AFL-CIO (TTD). It is my distinct pleasure to honor TTD, as it has firmly established itself as an effective advocate for American workers and is a well-respected leader in transportation policy debates.

The threats facing the United States in the 21st Century require all of us to be on the frontlines. Accordingly, TTD has brought workers together from across all sectors of the transportation industry. From aviation to surface transportation, threats to transportation security are broad and cross-cutting, and TTD has helped to bring diverse groups of workers together to speak with a clear, strong voice on issues of common concern.

As Chairman of the House Committee on Homeland Security, I know how important transportation workers are to the National homeland security mission. On September 11, 2001, transportation workers witnessed the destruction firsthand, and some workers' lives were, unfortunately, cut short. Since that day, under the leadership of TTD, these men and women have become educated and effective allies and advocates in improving our homeland security. TTD workers are on the front lines, working under stressful, rapidly-changing conditions. Under my leadership, the Committee has taken efforts to support these tireless and dedicated workers by providing them with the tools, training, and protections they deserve. To keep our homeland secure, transportation workers must be trained, prepared, and supported.

TTD has been a strong advocate for ensuring that workers have the training and tools they need to protect their passengers from harm, and their freight shipments from foul play. It has helped workers be free to identify security gaps in an appropriate manner without fear of retribution from their employer. TTD has also been a leading proponent for a strong federal investment in transportation security, one that recognizes that all modes must be fully secured. And it has been invaluable as background check and security credential programs are created for workers—making certain that we are improving security, not just making it more difficult for people to do their jobs.

We are continually reminded that our efforts to strengthen transportation security are far from complete. In these complicated times, the bold and effective voice of TTD is needed more than ever. I congratulate TTD on the important progress it has made on behalf of workers in its first 20 years, and look forward to working with them in the years ahead.

SUPPORT FOR NORTH AMERICAN
INCLUSION MONTH

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 2010

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Representative TOWNS on H.R. 1014 which recognizes and supports the goals and ideals of North American Inclusion Month. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution which demonstrates Congress' support for ensuring that all individuals are included in communities across the Nation. I would also like to commend Yachad and the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America for their continued support of disabled Americans.

I recently introduced two bills that support the ideals and goals of North American Inclusion Month, H.R. 4533, the Technology Bill of Rights and H.R. 1408, the Inclusive Home Design Act.

The Technology Bill of Rights would allow the blind and visually impaired equal access to rapidly advancing electronics, which millions of Americans use every day. Because the blind are currently not able to interact with many new technologies, they must overcome barriers of which other Americans may not even be aware.

The visually impaired are not able to use touch screens and visual displays, which have replaced knobs and buttons on many appliances. They face challenges in choosing new stoves, microwaves, fax machines, and cell phones. These technologies have become essential for many Americans, and inaccessibility has challenged the independence of and work opportunities of the blind. Even in good economic times, the blind face enormous barriers in their attempts to join the workforce, because of the inability to use many office technologies that require visual interaction. The recent economic downturn has amplified these hurdles to employment.

H.R. 4533 would ensure blind and visually impaired Americans equal access to these new technologies. The bill would mandate that consumer electronics, home appliances, kiosks, and electronic office technology are designed with nonvisual access components so that they are usable by all people. There are already inexpensive mechanisms that have been created which manufacturers can use to ensure equal access. This includes text-to-speech technology that has unfortunately not seen widespread implementation. This bill would increase the implementation of existing technologies and create new jobs as new technologies are developed to ensure that products are accessible for the visually impaired.

The Inclusive Home Design Act would mandate that all new homes built with the assistance of Federal funds would be accessible for the disabled. This legislation is based on the principle of integrating basic accessibility, establishing "visitability" standards, and allowing elderly Americans to "age in place" rather than being forced to move, be institutionalized, or spend thousands of dollars on home renovations. This is a sustainable, affordable, and inclusive design approach. It would require the new homes to meet four accessibility standards. First, it would require at minimum one

accessible entrance into the home. Second, doorways on the first floor must be large enough to accommodate wheelchairs. Third, at least one bathroom must be wheelchair accessible. Finally, the light switch and thermostats are required to be at a reachable height for those in a wheelchair. I am proud to have the support of Access Living and the Paralyzed Veterans of America in passing this legislation.

I encourage my colleagues to support the resolution recognizing North American Inclusion Month, and I look forward to continuing to work with them to ensure equal access for all.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RICHARD
"DICK" SPOTO, FORMER PRIN-
CIPAL AND HEADMASTER

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 2010

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and contributions of Richard "Dick" Spoto—and to acknowledge his dedication to the teachers, students and his neighbors in the Tampa Bay Area.

Mr. Spoto was born in Tampa, Florida in 1917. He was the youngest of 13 children born to Guiseppina and Pietro Spoto. He started his 41-year career in education as the assistant football coach at Hillsborough High and then the head coach at Jefferson High until he became the county's first director of health and physical education in 1949. Shortly after, Mr. Spoto returned to school and received his master's degree in administration from the University of Florida in 1952.

Mr. Spoto realized soon after receiving his masters that his true calling resided in the school system. So he returned to become principal of Tampa Bay Boulevard Elementary from 1953–1961, then Sligh Junior High from 1961–1966 and finally Hillsborough High from 1966–1970. After leaving the school district, he went to work as headmaster at Saint Mary's Episcopal Day School before retiring in 1980.

For 41 years, Mr. Spoto was dedicated to enriching the lives of his students and colleagues. His mentor and friend Richard "Norm" Pettigrew, with whom he created the group Athletes from the Past, described him as "a friend to everyone—an inspiration really . . . he would instill good habits and kept you on track."

While Mr. Spoto may be gone his lifelong commitment to athletics and education has been celebrated with many honors, culminating in 2005 with the dedication of Richard C. Spoto High School.

Mr. Spoto is survived by his two daughters, Susan Spoto Shobe, Elizabeth "B.J." Spoto-Russell along with his four grandchildren, Ashley Shobe Gilkison, David C. Shobe Jr., Kathleen Elizabeth Johns, and Allison Elayne Russell and his two great-grandchildren, Richard "Bo" Gilkison and Elizabeth Marie Johns. The Tampa community honors the life of Mr. Spoto for his outstanding contributions as an educator.

His service to the Tampa Bay community has made a lasting mark that will not soon be forgotten.

THE RENEWABLE ENERGY
EXPANSION ACT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 4, 2010

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, the impacts of a changing climate are far-reaching, representing a threat not only to our natural ecosystems but to our national security as well. To help avoid the worst effects of carbon pollution, consumers must have a dependable supply of energy that is clean, renewable, and American. The right combination of tax incentives, regulatory changes, and investment in research and development for cleaner energy can expand the renewable energy market, put renewable energy on an equal footing with traditional fossil fuels, and create good domestic jobs in the clean energy industry.

During the economic crisis, renewable energy investors were unable to take advantage of tax credits offered by the federal government to spur renewable energy investment and production. For example, many industry analysts anticipated that in 2009 wind power development would drop by as much as 50% from 2008 levels, with equivalent job losses.

To avoid this outcome, the federal government shifted its tax credit contribution to these projects into cash grants for qualifying projects. This program was extremely successful: in 2009, as a result of these policies, the U.S. wind industry broke all previous records by installing nearly 10,000 megawatts of new generating capacity in 2009. Other renewable energy providers reported similar gains.

This grant program expires on December 31, 2010. The legislation that I am introducing today, the Renewable Energy Expansion Act, will ensure that these benefits are not lost and will ensure that consumers continue to gain better access to sources of clean, renewable energy.

The Renewable Energy Expansion Act allows taxpayers to elect to receive a tax credit that functions as a direct payment for investing in or producing renewable energy. The amount of the payment is tailored to equal the subsidy provided under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act's energy grant program. The legislation provides taxpayers the option to receive this new credit or to use the ARRA-created grant program, depending on which program best matches their needs. The legislation also ensures the smooth continuation of our underlying commitment to clean, renewable energy by carrying forward existing guidance and making technical changes to improve the underlying program. Finally, the legislation extends the credit until January 1, 2013.

The legislation makes several technical improvements to the underlying grant program. First, it eliminates an unintended consequence of the normalization rules that limited the ability of regulated utilities to develop renewable power facilities, even if the project otherwise met the prudency tests required by their public utilities commissions. I look forward to seeing added renewable power capacity in my state as a result.

Second, the legislation also improves the investment climate for renewable projects by streamlining access to these investments by