

IN HONOR OF CAPTAIN DANIEL P. MACK

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, I would like to honor a man who has dedicated his life to courageous and exemplary service to our Nation, Captain Daniel P. Mack of the United States Navy.

Through his 27-year career, Captain Mack consistently demonstrated his dedication, diligence, and commitment to our great Nation. The son of John Francis Mack, a World War II veteran, and Helen Marie Conboy Mack, he was born February 18, 1960. He graduated from the Naval Academy in 1982. After being commissioned, Captain Mack attended Nuclear Power School and Naval Submarine School and reported aboard the USS *John Adams*. After completing six deterrent patrols over a period of three years, he joined the staff of the Naval Academy, serving as 24th Company Officer and Executive Assistant to the Commandant of Midshipmen. In 1990, he reported to the USS *Puffer*, which completed Pacific and Arctic patrols during his time aboard, and he was awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation.

In 1995, Captain Mack graduated with the highest distinction from the College of Command and Staff at the Naval War College. After earning his Master's Degree in International Relations and National Security Affairs, he was assigned to Executive Officer duty aboard the USS *Phoenix*. He completed *Phoenix's* final deployment, during which she earned the 1996 Fleet Silver Anchor Award and a Meritorious Unit Commendation. Captain Mack then returned to the Naval Submarine School, where he served as Prospective Executive Officer instructor.

In January 2000, Captain Mack assumed command of USS *Houston*. Under his guidance, the boat earned the CINCPACFLT Retention Award, for outstanding personnel development and the highest retention rate in the Pacific.

After completing his tour as Commanding Officer, Captain Mack served as Deputy Commander of Submarine Squadron 11. He then served on the Joint Staff in the Strategic Plans and Policy Division. Captain Mack also served as Nuclear Policy Division Chief and as the Nuclear Weapons Council advisor to the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He also reported to the Navy Staff where he held several vital positions.

In 2007, Captain Mack assumed command of Submarine Squadrons Sixteen and Twenty where he oversaw the development and training of sixteen separate submarine crews.

Even by the military's high standards, Captain Mack's record of achievement stands out. His personal awards include the Defense Superior Service Medal, awarded for "superior meritorious service in a position of significant responsibility", the Legion of Merit, awarded for "exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services," as well as multiple awards of the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, and Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

While the Navy is losing one of its finest of officers after his retirement this month, Captain

Mack's legacy will continue to benefit the United States Navy for years to come. Whether as a Company Officer at the Naval Academy, Prospective Executive Officer instructor at Naval Submarine School, or as Commander of Submarine Squadrons Sixteen and Twenty, Captain Mack's career has deeply and positively affected the lives of countless Shipmates—improving their futures as Sailors and citizens.

I salute his committed service to our Nation. Moreover, I wish him and his three magnificent children Maggie, Daniel and Timothy great happiness as they embark on this new chapter in their lives. I am certain that Captain Mack will remain successful and productive in every future endeavor.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE RICHMOND BRANCH OF THE FREE LIBRARY OF PHILADELPHIA

HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Richmond Branch of the Free Library of Philadelphia on its momentous 100th Anniversary. The Richmond Branch is located in the Port Richmond section of Northeast Philadelphia which was once home to the busiest port along the Atlantic seaboard.

While the Richmond Library officially opened on March 15, 1910, the library's inception dates back to 1897 when a "Traveling Library" that was open two nights each week was established in a flour and feed store located in the heart of the Port Richmond neighborhood. In that same year a group of Protestant ministers rallied the community to establish a neighborhood library which featured expanded hours. The library was moved to the Mutual Hall Association at Richmond Street and Neff Street, which is now Indiana Avenue. This neighborhood library was named the Port Richmond Branch and housed 3000 books.

In 1908, the cornerstone of the current branch was laid through the generosity of both Andrew Carnegie, who endowed the Free Library of Philadelphia with a financial gift to construct library buildings, and Anne W. Penfield, who was considered the wealthiest woman in America at the time, who donated the land at 2987 Almond Street for the library. The building was renovated in 1994 as part of the city's "Changing Lives" campaign, which brought Internet service to this library as well as other libraries across Philadelphia.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating the Richmond Library's 100th anniversary milestone and wish the friends, staff, and patrons many more years of community enrichment and service.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 22, 2010

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great respect and sincere admiration that I rise

to celebrate Black History Month and its 2010 theme—The History of Black Economic Empowerment. With the current economic struggles facing our nation, it is fitting that this year's theme focuses on honoring those individuals and organizations that have had an immense impact on society during our most difficult times. Throughout our nation's history, time and time again, African American communities have found strength and purpose in coming together to rise above unfortunate circumstances, and I rise today to pay tribute to those who have demonstrated such remarkable leadership.

The theme for this year's Black History Month, The History of Black Economic Empowerment, is a reminder that in striving for a greater society, we must examine the past. Few organizations can match the impact that the National Urban League has had on promoting economic empowerment in our nation's urban communities. The National Urban League has been a cornerstone of communities across America in carrying out its mission, to enable African Americans to secure economic self-reliance, parity, power and civil rights. As the National Urban League celebrates a remarkable milestone, its 100th anniversary, we take this time to remember the outstanding contributions of those visionaries who sought to bring about hope during the bleakest of times and to recognize those who have carried on their work.

As the Representative for the First Congressional District of Indiana, I have had the pleasure of representing the Urban League of Northwest Indiana and the honor of knowing one of the organization's most influential members, Ms. Eloise Gentry. Ms. Gentry passed away on August 20, 2009, after leading the Urban League of Northwest Indiana for more than thirty years. While Ms. Gentry is missed by all of Northwest Indiana, the impact she has had on her community, not only as the president and chief executive officer of the Urban League but also as an educator in the Gary Community School Corporation and in her many other community service undertakings, will continue to resonate for generations to come. As an educator, activist, and community leader, Ms. Gentry has touched thousands of lives.

As her obituary read, "First and foremost, Eloise Gentry was an EDUCATOR." I cannot think of a more fitting one-word description. From those she taught in the classroom to those she worked closely with at the Urban League to those whose lives she improved through her work, everyone who had the pleasure of knowing Ms. Gentry learned from her, if not by her words then by her example.

While we have lost a pillar of our community, Eloise Gentry's lasting impression and the efforts of the Urban League of Northwest Indiana continue on today. Under the leadership of newly appointed president and chief executive officer, Vanessa Allen, the Urban League of Northwest Indiana, along with the more than one hundred local affiliates across America, continues to strive to provide economic empowerment and educational opportunities for African Americans while seeking to ensure their civil rights.

It is the efforts of organizations like the National Urban League and its affiliates that allow us to reflect on what makes the United States of America so special. While the United States is made up of people from so many different racial, religious, social, and ideological

backgrounds, it is the vision and leadership of people like Eloise Gentry, who have sought to improve the quality of life for all Americans, that has made America what it is.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in recognizing the tireless dedication of the members of organizations such as the National Urban League, who continue their selfless work today, and I ask that you join me in remembering a true hero, Ms. Eloise Gentry, one of Northwest Indiana's finest citizens.

NATIONAL JOB CRISIS

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I submit the following letter:

FEBRUARY 19, 2010.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Hon. HARRY REID,
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI AND MAJORITY LEADER REID: We write on behalf of the broad civil rights and human rights communities to urge swift action on a national crisis that is affecting us all. Unless we resolve our national job crisis, all of our other priorities—from reforming health care and fixing our broken immigration system to expanding economic opportunity for all Americans—are in real jeopardy. In our neighborhoods and communities, people are calling for bold action to rebuild the economy.

A recovery plan is needed that rescues Americans from job losses and foreclosures, and that lays the foundation for a more prosperous future for all. The lack of decent jobs, the fear of losing the family home to foreclosure, and the particular impact of both of these problems on minority, tribal, and poor neighborhoods are pushing people to the breaking point. In addition, people with disabilities, who have had historic high levels of unemployment, need relief. The economic and health care crises are inextricably linked as job loss causes the loss of health insurance coverage, leaving families one medical crisis away from bankruptcy and foreclosure.

Wall Street received the helping hand it needed, but the American people are still waiting. It is time to require Wall Street to do its fair share to rescue, restore and rebuild our cities and neighborhoods. Main Street is hurting, and the banks and the federal government must do their part to help turn the economy around in ways that all families can see and feel.

The House has passed a jobs bill that is awaiting action in the Senate. In his State of the Union address, President Obama urged the Senate to act quickly on it. We join the President's call to Congress, and strongly urge the House and Senate to enact bold legislation that provides immediate relief to people who are out of work and employers that are unable to maintain their workforces. As included in the House legislation, it is critical that substantial fiscal relief be made available to help stabilize State and local governments, and to preserve essential services and safety net programs in our communities and the jobs of tens of thousands of workers around the country. Similarly, and again as included in the House legislation, the extension and im-

provements to our Unemployment Insurance program and help with COBRA premiums as enacted in the ARRA must be extended at least through the end of 2010.

Of equal importance, and as urged by the Congressional Black Caucus, among others, the final legislation must provide tools for ensuring that stimulus funds go to the places and people most in need, especially those regions where homeowners were targeted by unscrupulous mortgage lenders and where job loss has been higher than average. Accordingly, we urge Congress to adopt legislation that provides for:

(1) FAST TRACK CREATION OF JOBS IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR THAT SERVE COMMUNITY-LEVEL NEEDS

Appropriate \$40 billion a year for two years to create employment opportunities for unemployed and underemployed residents of distressed communities. Under this proposal, the Department of Labor would administer grants to states, local governments, and Indian tribes. Five percent of funds would be reserved for Indian tribes and discretionary grants, 30 percent would be allocated to states to be re-granted to small localities, and the remaining funds allocated to metropolitan cities and counties under the Community Block Grant formula. Implementation would occur in two phases. The first phase would fast-track job creation for nine months in public service-oriented work projects. The second would provide job creation on projects that serve areas with the greatest economic need, integrate education and job training, coordinate with apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs, and provide job opportunities in sectors that offer high growth and the prospect of long term employment. These initiatives must be designed so that they maintain existing wage and benefit standards and do not displace existing jobs or simply exchange one group of unemployed workers for another. A number of models for public employment have been proposed, including H.R. 4268, the Put America to Work Act of 2009, sponsored by Rep. Keith Ellison (D-MN).

Invest \$1 billion to hire workers to maintain and rehabilitate abandoned and foreclosed properties in neighborhoods by appropriating a second round of funds for the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP). Under this proposal, at least 30 percent of new NSP jobs would be required to go to economically disadvantaged job-seekers, prioritizing hiring workers with low-income and low levels of education, and those not currently receiving UI. At least 30 percent of hires would be required to be low-income residents from the areas in which projects are funded.

Provide a work sharing tax credit, as proposed by Rep. John Conyers (D-MI) in H.R. 4179, the "Shortening Hours and Retaining Employees (SHARE) Credit Act of 2009," which would minimize layoffs and incentivize new hiring. The tax credits would be used to pay firms to shorten the typical workweek or work year, while keeping pay constant. This would lead employers to hire additional workers to make up for the fewer hours worked by their incumbent work force. A rough estimate is that this tax credit would create a net total of 1.3 to 2.7 million jobs. Funding work sharing would be cost-effective and efficient, and would very quickly make a big dent in the unemployment rate.

Extend through FY2011 the time during which states and localities are allowed to use existing TANF Emergency Contingency Funds, which can be used to create subsidized jobs, as well as to improve access to cash assistance and other one-time assistance for low-income families. These funds were authorized in the ARRA, and under cur-

rent law, all funds must be spent by the end of FY2010. In addition, as proposed in the President's budget, additional funds, at least \$2.5 billion, should be made available in FY2011.

(2) IMMEDIATE INVESTMENT IN THE INFRASTRUCTURE OF SCHOOLS AND PUBLIC TRANSIT

Provide \$20 billion for school maintenance and repair, with funds allocated in accordance with the ESEA Title I formulas. According to the Economic Policy Institute, this could generate 250,000 skilled maintenance and repair jobs. In addition, provide \$50 billion in capital funds for the lowest-income school districts.

Prioritize investments in public transportation, including regional systems that connect housing, jobs, and local services to improve access to healthy foods, medical care, and other basic services. Create clear guidelines to ensure that communities with high unemployment and poverty rates are served, and expand on language in the ARRA by creating strong accountability and enforcement measures tied to achieving equitable economic benefits.

Both programs should include safeguards to ensure that job creation results in widespread impact for all workers. For example, contractors receiving federal dollars should ensure that at least 15-30 percent of project work-hours are worked by local residents who are lower income, people of color, women, or who are otherwise underrepresented in the construction industry. Where joint apprenticeship programs are located near a project, contractors should have to maximize the use of registered apprentices who receive quality training. One percent of all dollars for infrastructure investment should be dedicated to creating a pipeline of workers ready to step into apprenticeship programs and construction careers. The Secretary of Labor should be authorized to ensure that public agencies and contractors receiving federal funds utilize Community Workforce Agreements.

(3) PREVENTION OF FORECLOSURES

Allocate \$10 billion of appropriated TARP funds to HUD to provide fixed-rate, low-interest loans to unemployed people facing foreclosure who don't qualify for other assistance. This program would be modeled on a successful effort by the Pennsylvania-based Homeowners' Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program (HEMAP). If a homeowner provided verification of their unemployment compensation to his loan servicer, he would be automatically approved for a loan that would pay any mortgage above 31 percent of family income. Loans would be repayable with interest, but interest would not accrue and repayments would not begin until the homeowner's income was sufficient to allow payment.

Allow homeowners to rent back their homes at market rates for up to ten years following foreclosure. The program would be modeled after the Fannie Mae "Deed for Lease" program that gives former owners the option to lease their recently-foreclosed properties and that targets neighborhoods with above-average foreclosure rates.

Support "cram down" provisions to allow bankruptcy court judges to approve changes to mortgage contracts for homeowners in bankruptcy, such as extending repayment periods, reducing interest rates and fees, and adjusting the principal balance of mortgages.

Implementing our proposals would swiftly stabilize neighborhoods and stem the human suffering in the most distressed parts of the country. While these are temporary investments, all would leave the kind of lasting benefits for homeowners, workers, and students, which would generate long term benefits to the economy and nation. By ensuring