

a summary and to recommend that people read the entire article.

Dr. Pfeffer notes that “In the last decade, layoffs have become America’s export to the world. At a conference in Stockholm a few years ago, business executives told me,” she noted, “that to become as competitive as America, Sweden needed to make it easier to lay people off . . . There are daily calls for European countries to follow the U.S. and make labor markets more ‘flexible.’ But the more you examine this universally accepted tactic of modern management, the more wrongheaded it seems to be.”

Professor Pfeffer goes on to note “that research paints a fairly consistent picture: layoffs don’t work.” And the article closes in a strong, coherent summary, “Layoffs are mostly bad for companies, harmful for the economy, and devastating for employees . . . There is substantial research literature in fields from epidemiology to organizational behavior documenting these effects. The damage from overzealous downsizing will linger even as the economy recovers. . . .”

Madam Speaker, I thank Dr. Russell for calling this to my attention, and I commend to my colleagues a reading of this very important article.

REED PATRICK HEIM

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2010

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Reed Patrick Heim. Reed is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Heart of America Council Troop 351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Reed has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the five years Reed has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Reed has earned the rank of Brave in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say and became a Brotherhood member in the Order of the Arrow. Reed has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Reed completed renovation projects at Benner Park in Weston, MO, by installing landscaping at the front entrance, constructing a sand pit for the toy excavator, and placing approximately forty cubic yards of mulch at the playground.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Reed Patrick Heim for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

DEJA BLUE FOR THE WEST
ROWAN FALCONS

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2010

Mr. COBLE. Madam Speaker, perfect seasons and consecutive championships are a

rare feat for any football team. On behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, we wish to congratulate a football team that not only won its second straight championship, but did so in perfect fashion. The West Rowan High School Falcons flew as high as possible by again capturing the North Carolina 3A with a perfect 16–0 record. As the Salisbury Post stated in its headline, the win was “Deja Blue.”

The championship for the Falcons was won with what the team calls its “T&E—technique and effort.” Effort and technique were on display when West Rowan watched a 20–0 lead erode into a one-point deficit to Eastern Alamance, which is also located in the Sixth District. Led by Head Coach Scott Young, who is known for inspiring his young men to greatness, the Falcons mounted a furious comeback. In the fourth quarter, West Rowan finally went ahead and ended up winning 28–21. This team showed true grit and character to come back and win the championship and preserve its 30th straight win.

The perfect championship season effort was led by seniors K.P. Parks, Quan Cowan, Maxx Gore, KaJuan Phillips, Ershaw Wilder, Jon Crucitti, Chris Neal, Will Holloway, Coleman Phifer, Michael Livengood, Corey McVay, Chris Smith, Jairahmal Robinson, Timmy Pangburn, Rodney Cline, Mackel Gaither, Isaiah Cuthbertson, Eli Goodson, and Josh Poe, juniors, Trey Mashore, Dashion Barger, B.J. Sherrill, Jamarian Mabry, Eric Cowan, Aakeem Minter, Tyler Mullis, Domonique Noble, Kendall Hosch, John Dunlap, Kelly Palmer, Odell McBride, Chandler Jones, Patrick Hampton, Emmanuel Gbunblee, Matt Wright, Charles Holloway III, Armando Trujillo, Nolan Rich, Xavier Still, Tim Jancic, Tyler Anglin, Davon Quarles, Leon Dulin, Jalen Morrow, Ethan Wansley, and Justin Teeter, sophomores Dinkin Miller, Christian Hedrick, Troy Culbertson, Louis Kraft, Jarvis Morgan, and Maurice Warren, along with freshman Bertin Suarez.

The team, of course could not have achieved this amazing feat without the help of Head Coach Young and his outstanding assistants Ed Bowles, Butch Browning, Durwood Bynum, Jeff Chapman, Tim Dixon, Ralph Ellis, Dave Hunt, Lee Linville, Darrell Misenhiemer, Joe Nixon, Kevin Parks, Sr., and Stevie Williams. Congratulations also go to the support staff that is needed to reach championship heights. Included in that effort were trainer Amber DeDorning, student trainers Nichole Barber, Kayla Barnett, Ashley Gaston, Vicki Nichols, J.J. Pangburn, and video coordinator Alan Champion.

Again on behalf of the Sixth District of North Carolina, we would like to congratulate West Rowan High School Principal Jamie Durant, Athletic Director Todd Bell and the entire faculty, staff, students, and fans for another historical season. The West Rowan Falcons will be remembered for many years to come for their perfection on the field and second straight North Carolina 3A championship. As the Salisbury Post headline stated, and to paraphrase that great philosopher Yogi Berra, it was a case of “Deja Blue” all over again.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALLEN BOYD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2010

Mr. BOYD. Madam Speaker, due to personal reasons, I was unable to attend a vote. Had I been present, my vote would have been “yea” on final passage of H.R. 3619, the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2010.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2010

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I submit the following remarks regarding my absence from votes which occurred on February 25, 2010. I was a pallbearer at a funeral for a close family friend in South Carolina and therefore was unable to make the vote. Listed below is how I would have voted if I had been present.

H. Con. Res. 227: Supporting the goals and ideals of National Urban Crimes Awareness Week—“aye.”

H.R. 3961: To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to reform the Medicare SGR payment system for physicians—“aye.”

H. Res. 1105: Providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2701) to authorize appropriations for FY 2010 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the U.S. Government, the Community Management Account, and the CIA Retirement and Disability System, waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII—“nay.”

ROBERT MICHAEL BARBER

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2010

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Robert Michael Barber. Robert is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Heart of America Council Troop 351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Robert has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the seven years Robert has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Robert has earned the rank of Firebuilder in the Tribe of Mic-O-Say. Robert has also contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project. Robert constructed a new handicap-accessible hunting blind at Smithville Lake in Smithville, MO, to replace one that was in poor condition. This will aid Smithville Lake in continuing to provide events which can be open to the entire hunting community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Robert Michael Barber for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of

America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

**ANNIVERSARY OF THE SUMGAIT
MASSACRES AGAINST AZER-
BAIJANI CITIZENS OF ARMENIAN
HERITAGE**

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2010

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, this Sunday will mark the anniversary of the tragic massacres that took place against Azerbaijani citizens of Armenian heritage in February of 1988, in the town of Sumgait, Azerbaijan. This 3-day rampage, carried out by Azerbaijani nationals, left dozens of Armenians dead, a majority of whom were set on fire alive after being beaten and tortured. Hundreds of innocent people received injuries of different severity and became physically impaired. Women, among them minors, were abused. More than 200 apartments were robbed, dozens of cars were destroyed and burned, dozens of art and crafts studios, shops and kiosks were demolished, and thousands of people became refugees.

Madam Speaker, these crimes were never adequately prosecuted by the Government of Azerbaijan, and most of its organizers and executors were simply set free, many of whom are presently members of the Azeri Parliament. Despite the attempt by the Government of Azerbaijan to cover up these crimes, enough brave witnesses came forward to give an accurate account of the offenses.

The Sumgait massacres are just another in a long line of Azerbaijan's aggressions against the Armenian people. The events in Sumgait were preceded by a wave of anti-Armenian rallies that shook the city in February 1988. Almost the entire territory of the city, with a population of 250,000, became an arena for mass violence against its Armenian population.

The attacks also marked the beginning of a larger campaign of ethnic cleansing targeting the Armenian people, culminating in the war launched against the people of Nagorno Karabakh. The war claimed nearly 30,000 lives and left over one million refugees in both Armenia and Azerbaijan. The continued hostilities in Azerbaijan and the military aggression against the Armenians of Nagorno Karabakh in 1992 through 1994 led to the disappearance of a 450,000-strong Armenian community in Azerbaijan within a span of just a few years. As this April marks the 95th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, we also pause to remember the crimes committed in Sumgait and the pogroms conducted against the Armenian people in Azerbaijan.

Madam Speaker, this anniversary reminds us yet again of the historical injustice the Armenian people have faced, unfortunately, throughout their history. As we join with the Armenian people and all people of goodwill in remembering these atrocities, I strongly urge Azerbaijan and Turkey to cease their blockade and aggressive posture against the Armenian people and work to achieve a lasting peace. It is time for the United States to do all that it can and to use its geopolitical influence to send a message that ethnically charged genocides, illegal blockades of sovereign nations

and the constant harassment of the Armenian people will not be tolerated.

**RECOGNIZING THE TREE OF LIFE
FOOD PANTRY IN PURCELL-
VILLE, VIRGINIA**

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2010

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Tree of Life food pantry in Purcellville, Virginia, which is in my congressional district. Through the group effort of dedicated volunteers, the Tree of Life food pantry has been able to help the hungry in western Loudoun County.

The Tree of Life food pantry was established in November 2009 to serve the hungry in Purcellville and the surrounding area in Loudoun County. In these tough economic times, so many families across the Nation are struggling to put food on the table. Some face grave economic challenges. Food pantries, like the Tree of Life, are able to help people make it through these challenging times.

The Tree of Life food pantry owes some of its success to its local partners, including Giant and Wegmans grocery stores and Costco Wholesale warehouse, which all pledged their support to the organization. These partnerships are proof that the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Act, which protects food donors from liability, has been successful in helping to deliver surplus food to food banks in need.

Besides providing for the hungry, the Tree of Life food pantry also serves its community through ministering to the elderly and sick by providing additional food and resources. This organization has truly been a blessing to its community.

I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in recognizing the good work of the Tree of Life food pantry and its dedicated volunteers in serving the hungry in Loudoun County, Virginia.

**HEALTH INSURANCE INDUSTRY
FAIR COMPETITION ACT**

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 24, 2010

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Health Insurance Industry Fair Competition Act.

The McCarran-Ferguson Act, passed in 1945, exempted insurance companies from antitrust legislation that applies to most other business. The Health Insurance Industry Fair Competition Act removes the antitrust exemption for health insurance companies, requiring them to compete fairly and adhere to the same antitrust laws as others. No longer will health insurers be allowed to price-fix, divide up territories among themselves, or sabotage their competitors in order to gain a monopoly in the marketplace. Such practices have been outlawed in other industries for decades.

The Health Insurance Industry Fair Competition Act will bring much needed reform to the

health insurance industry by allowing true competition between health insurers. Competition is what drives our economy, spurs innovation, and ensures that the American consumer gets a fair deal. More competition means lower health insurance costs for higher quality healthcare.

For too long, the health insurance exemption has led to higher premiums for consumers and contributed to the unsustainable increases in health care costs. As a result, 94% of all health insurance markets are "highly concentrated"—meaning consumers have little or no choice between insurance providers. There are only two industries in our country that are exempt from antitrust laws—the health insurance industry and major league baseball.

The American people deserve better than this and I'm proud to cast my vote in support of the Health Insurance Industry Fair Competition Act.

JOSEPH ISIAH TORCHIA

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 26, 2010

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Joseph Isiah Torchia. Joseph is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Heart of America Council Troop 351, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Joseph has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Joseph has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Joseph has displayed dedication and perseverance with this significant achievement, values which will stay with him throughout his life.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Joseph Isiah Torchia for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

**NATIVE HAWAIIAN GOVERNMENT
REORGANIZATION ACT OF 2009**

SPEECH OF

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 23, 2010

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to show further support for H.R. 2314, the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act of 2009 and would like to submit for the RECORD a letter of support from the Honorable Calvin Say, Speaker for the House of Representatives in the Hawaii State Legislature.

STATE OF HAWAII,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Honolulu, HI, February 19, 2010.

Aloha,

I write to express my support for you, the Hawaii Congressional Delegation, in your efforts to pass the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act.