

In his role, Mr. Weigand has conducted numerous campaigns in the Aerospace, Service Contract and Automotive sectors of industry. He was also instrumental in securing collective bargaining agreements in the Service Contract arena which included White Sands Missile Range and Kirtland Air Force Base. His 31 years of membership, dedication, and service to the Machinists Union have centered upon core values of organized labor: fair pay for an honest day's work, dignified treatment in the workplace, and equal opportunity for all. In recent years, those kinds of organized labor struggles have come under increasing attack. Yet the strength of the labor movement is visible in leaders like Mr. Weigand.

Mr. Weigand's dedication to the well-being of working New Mexican machinists and aerospace workers resulted in many sacrifices in his own life. Yet his work has been instrumental in mentoring numerous union activists in hopes of maintaining a middle class America, while allowing for those less fortunate to realize their American dream. This great nation should continue to be the land of equal opportunity as it was intended by our forefathers.

In New Mexico, when many other sectors recently struggled or lost jobs, our innovative industries grew in revenue and contributed to our national defense, energy independence, and economic vitality. Those sectors are helping our nation's ability to rise to the challenges of the 21st century and they're also providing high-skill high-wage jobs. I appreciate Mr. Weigand's leadership in those New Mexican sectors, including high technology manufacturing and aerospace.

I am proud to honor Mr. Rod Weigand for his continued leadership in strengthening the manufacturing and aerospace industry in New Mexico and for promoting the well-being of its workers. The impact of leaders like Mr. Weigand and the Machinists and Aerospace Workers is critical to New Mexico's future. As a result, today's workers enjoy benefits far beyond what they had before and in the words of IAM, "it doesn't cost to be a union member—it pays." I wish Mr. Weigand and his family our best in all of their future endeavors.

THE GRAND OPENING OF THE
HEART MOUNTAIN WYOMING
INTERPRETATIVE LEARNING
CENTER

HON. CYNTHIA M. LUMMIS

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mrs. LUMMIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Grand Opening of the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation's Interpretative Learning Center in my home State of Wyoming. While the Heart Mountain Relocation Center symbolizes a sad time in our nation's history, the opening of the Interpretative Learning Center begins a new era. It will be a first class educational facility that preserves and teaches the lessons embodied in the war-time experience of people of Japanese ancestry confined during World War II.

The Heart Mountain Relocation Center was located on then public lands in Park County, Wyoming. It was named after the Heart Mountain Butte visible in the distance. It was, and

is, in a very rural area of Wyoming. It held nearly 14,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry during World War II on 740 acres. At the time it was the third largest community in Wyoming.

Heart Mountain was one of ten internment camps in the American West established by the War Relocation Authority and authorized by President Roosevelt under Executive Order shortly after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Under the justification of national security, the U.S. military was authorized to create military zones on the West Coast from which residents of Japanese ancestry were excluded.

The Heart Mountain Relocation Center was surrounded by guard towers and barbed wire fences and consisted of 650 barrack-style buildings, including a hospital, other support facilities and 468 residential units. Nearly two-thirds of those imprisoned at Heart Mountain were American citizens born in the United States and living in California, Oregon and Washington States. Internees were able to take few possessions with them and were forced to leave their homes, farms, and businesses.

Yet, despite their unjust imprisonment, the Japanese Americans at Heart Mountain never forgot that they were Americans. While residing at the Relocation Center, internees set up systems for democratic governance, health care, education, farming, and community services. More than 800 internees served in the U.S. armed forces during World War II, 11 of whom were killed and 52 wounded in battle.

This dark spot on the history of America and Wyoming nevertheless created lasting friendships and an indelible imprint on Northwest Wyoming. While he was a young Boy Scout living in Cody, Wyoming, former Wyoming Senator Alan Simpson met former Representative and Secretary of Commerce and Transportation Norman Mineta when the Minetas were interned at Heart Mountain. They remain dear friends today. Senator Simpson, Secretary Mineta, and the people of Northwest Wyoming have wholeheartedly embraced the efforts of the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation to share this history with future generations.

The Heart Mountain Interpretative Learning Center is the culmination of a 15-year grassroots undertaking to preserve the historic site and interpret what occurred there for current and future generations of Americans. The Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation has raised nearly \$5 million through private donations, including significant contributions by former Heart Mountain internees. This funding has been used to acquire 50 acres at the original site and construct the Interpretative Learning Center. This effort has been supported by the Park County Commissioners, the Cody Country Chamber of Commerce, the Powell Valley Chamber of Commerce, the Park County Travel Council and the Northwest Region of the Wyoming Business Council.

The Center will house a number of permanent exhibits and artifacts in a barracks-like structure that will capture a sense of everyday life at the Relocation Center. Visitors will learn about the lives the internees left behind and the upheaval caused by the forced evacuation from their homes. There are a number of interactive displays and exhibits to help recreate the experience. There also will be an opportunity for visitors to gain insight into the post-war challenges for internees and the tragic legacy of civil rights abuses.

The world class facility will serve as a national center for education, policy and research in collaboration with universities and historic preservation organizations. Most significantly, it will be a visible reminder of the need to balance national security with respect for the civil rights of citizens.

The Heart Mountain Interpretative Learning Center, located between Cody and Powell, Wyoming, is located only 50 miles from Yellowstone National Park and Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area. Over 1,000 internees, descendents, and supporters from across the nation will attend the Grand Opening of the Heart Mountain Interpretative Learning Center later this month. It is my hope that my colleagues and their constituents will take time to visit the Heart Mountain Interpretative Learning Center when they visit Wyoming.

I congratulate the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation, and applaud the opening of a learning center designed to help us never to forget the importance of the liberties granted to all of us by our Constitution.

HONORING THE INTERNATIONAL
UNION OF OPERATING ENGI-
NEERS, LOCAL 478 AS THEY CELE-
BRATE THEIR CENTENNIAL AN-
NIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to join the many who have gathered to celebrate "A Century of Building Connecticut"—the 100th Anniversary of the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 478. Over the last century, the members of Local 478 have been an integral part of Connecticut's construction industry, involved in some of the most important and influential projects in our state. The proud members of Local 478 work tirelessly to make the Union the premier supplier of heavy equipment operators, mechanics, and support personnel in Connecticut.

Local 478 began as most trade unions did—with a group of workers banding together to negotiate safer working conditions and better pay. The 18 original members of Local 478 were granted a charter by the International Union of Steam Engineers in September of 1911. Over the course of its history, Local 478 was also granted several other charters, including the Hoisting and Portable Charter, the Journeyman and Apprentice Charter, as well as the 478B, 478C, 478D and 478E charters—all of which represent the various skills and crafts of today's membership.

One hundred years later, Local 478 continues to serve the interests of their membership. From its humble beginnings, Local 478 has grown to represent more than four thousand members and it has ensured that each of its members and their families have access to state-of-the-art training, fair wages and benefits, and a secure retirement. These are protections that these hard-working men and women rightly deserve. Their work to provide and maintain our state's infrastructure strengthens our communities and improves the quality of life for all Connecticut residents. From the inception of the Merritt Parkway,

through the damming of the Naugatuck Valley, to the building of Connecticut's tallest structure and one of the world's largest casinos, the men and women of Local 478 have proudly worked day in and day out to quite literally build Connecticut.

As they celebrate this remarkable milestone in their history, I am proud to stand and extend my sincere congratulations to the leadership and membership of International Union Operating Local 478—past and present—for their many invaluable contributions to our community. I have and continue to be proud to work with them in their endeavors to enrich our state as well as the lives of their membership. Happy 100th Anniversary!

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 324, I was unable to cast my vote on the House floor because I was ill, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

CONGRATULATING SPIRIT AEROSYSTEMS ON THE OCCASION OF THE EXPANSION OF ITS MANUFACTURING FACILITY IN KINSTON, NORTH CAROLINA

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Spirit AeroSystems, Inc. on the expansion of its recently opened manufacturing operations at the North Carolina Global TransPark in Kinston, North Carolina.

Based in Wichita, Kansas, Spirit AeroSystems is one of the world's largest suppliers of commercial airplane components. Spirit, which has domestic facilities in Tulsa and McAlester, Oklahoma as well as international facilities in Prestwick, Scotland; Preston, England; Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; and Saint-Nazaire, France, added Kinston, North Carolina to its roster of state-of-the-art aviation operations in July 2010.

Spirit AeroSystems' Kinston facility will begin a new production program responsible for constructing the wing for the Gulfstream G250 and will add approximately 150 to 200 North Carolina jobs over the next five years. This expansion will add to the Global TransPark operation that already produces composite fuselage and leading edge wing spars for the Airbus A350 commercial aircraft.

Mr. Speaker, I represent one of the poorest Congressional districts in the country, and the recession has been especially difficult on the citizens of the First District of North Carolina. However, through these tough times the people of eastern North Carolina have demonstrated their resiliency and competitiveness. As a result of these qualities, I believe other companies will follow Spirit AeroSystems' lead and build successful and reciprocally beneficial relationships in eastern North Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues join me in congratulating Spirit AeroSystems on the expansion of its manufacturing facility in Kinston, North Carolina. I thank Spirit AeroSystems for their demonstrated confidence in the workers of eastern North Carolina. I wish them the best in their future endeavors.

THE PASSING OF FORMER WASHINGTON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, CHIEF CLERK, VITO CHIECHI

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Vito Chiechi—a friend, father, public servant and a political fixture in Washington State.

Anyone who worked in Olympia during Vito's tenure there remembers him as a diligent man, with a kind heart, fun-loving nature, smart nature, and a wealth of ideas. Vito, a first generation Italian-American, was born in Seattle, Washington in 1925 and grew up in Rainier Valley. His public service began in the U.S. Navy during World War II, where he served in the Pacific Theater aboard the destroyers *McKee* and *Plunkett*.

After the war, he returned to his native Washington, graduated from Seattle University with a Bachelor of Finance and married his sweetheart, Dolores. They were happily married for 52 years, had 9 children, 24 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Vito had a vibrant and distinguished career that matched his larger than life personality. He worked for The Boeing Company for 20 years, served as the Regional Administrator for the General Services Administration and Chief Clerk for the Washington State House of Representatives. Always the entrepreneur, Vito founded his own public affairs and government relations company.

During these tough economic times, we could learn a great deal from Vito. A dear friend of his and mine, Alan Hayworth, recounted the time Vito served as Chief Clerk and the state was in the midst of a tough economic crisis. Vito instituted his own 10 percent across the board cuts. When vendors submitted invoices, Vito would only pay 90 percent of the bill and write back a nice note, "thanking them for participating in the House budget reduction program."

We all learned valuable political lessons from him as well, lessons that can be applied today. Vito was a true patriot, placing his love for America above partisan politics. Because of Vito's warmth and personality he was able to transcend party lines, and had a unique ability to bring people together on common ground issues. Remarkably, Vito held prominent positions for Democratic and Republican officials alike. He hosted the state famous bipartisan pasta dinners for state legislators and local elected officials. His daughter, also named Dolores, remarked that he was fond of saying, "I don't care what you are, just be something!"

Despite suffering a stroke in 1997, Vito refused to retire, or even slow down. Although he was confined to a wheelchair, he continued to frequent the Capitol and throw his famous

pasta dinners until his passing on Tuesday July 26, 2011.

Vito's joy for living was never compromised and just three days before his death he celebrated his 86th birthday. Vito's ability to bring people together will undoubtedly be part of his legacy, as Members of both parties express their sorrow at his passing.

Mr. Speaker, Vito Chiechi's life of joy and service is worthy of tribute. As we remember Vito's life, we recognize that the sadness we feel is only for ourselves, at the loss of our friend. While the world has lost one of its bright lights, our dear friend has finally taken a well-earned retirement, and has been reunited with Dolores Audrey, his first love, and wife of 52 years.

INTRODUCING THE FEDERAL AVIATION EMPLOYEES PROTECTION ACT OF 2011

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Federal Aviation Employees Protection Act of 2011, which would allow the nearly 4,000 Federal Aviation Administration, FAA, employees left in limbo by a partial FAA shutdown to get back to work. While House Republicans continue to ignore their Congressional duties by opposing a short-term FAA extension, as well as an open and transparent process for a long-term FAA reauthorization, Democrats in the House and Senate have been working to address these furloughs. This legislation is a companion bill to S. 1433, introduced by Senator JAY ROCKEFELLER of West Virginia, Senator MARK WARNER of Virginia, and 14 other senators on July 27, 2011.

On July 23, 2011, the FAA went into partial shutdown on the watch of House Republicans who, earlier that week, voted to restrict Essential Air Service, EAS, for small and rural communities instead of passing a clean, short-term FAA extension. As a result, the FAA was forced to furlough 3,594 employees, including engineering and electronics technicians, computer and logistics specialists, and support staff, among other workers. In addition, the FAA has halted hundreds of airport construction projects, suspended research on next-generation air traffic control systems (NextGen), and lost upwards of \$30 million in tax revenue with each passing day. Without steady funding or workers, the FAA is unable to move forward with the long-term programs and projects that are vital to the future of our aviation system, including lifesaving airport safety improvements and the transition to NextGen.

As House Republicans continue playing the blame game with the Senate, American businesses and workers are losing out on much-needed economic opportunities. The ongoing partial shutdown and consequent furlough of FAA employees have had a devastating impact on families and communities in 35 states across the country. In particular, my home state of Florida has lost 27 FAA employees, 3,061 airport construction jobs, and \$88 million in airport construction funding. Furthermore, media reports indicate that certain airlines