

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, "thank 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

have raised consumer prices in order to capitalize on the FAA's inability to collect aviation excise taxes.

Failure to address this dire issue threatens jobs, raises construction costs, and harms consumers at a time when the economic security and stability of our nation's economy is called into question by political gridlock. Fortunately, there is a solution. Much of the FAA is self-funded through user fees that go into the Airport and Airway Trust Fund. The Federal Aviation Employees Protection Act uses this revenue to allow furloughed FAA employees to continue working with pay and benefits, and to provide retroactive pay for the period of their furlough, as Congress seeks a compromise on long-term FAA reauthorization.

Mr. Speaker, the FAA is now in its 10th consecutive day of partial shutdown, which means that furloughed FAA employees have been out of work and without pay for 10 days. This is unconscionable and unacceptable. I urge my colleagues to join me in standing up for these hard-working federal employees and help ensure the continued safety and improvement of our nation's aviation system by supporting the Federal Aviation Employees Protection Act. Enough is enough. If House Republicans were serious about bringing an end to the partial shutdown and furlough of FAA employees, they would support a clean, short-term FAA extension so that Congress could finalize and pass a long-term FAA reauthorization as soon as possible. It is clear that they are not.

THANK YOU MELISSA HITE

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to Melissa Hite, a dedicated staff member in the office of the Second Congressional District of South Carolina. After spending almost two years in the Washington office, Melissa will be leaving on August 19th to return home to Irmo, South Carolina.

Melissa has played an instrumental role in the Second Congressional District's Washington Intern Program. Serving as Intern Coordinator, Melissa was in charge of training and overseeing all interns in our Washington office. As a Legislative Correspondent, she was responsible for answering constituent mail while serving as the primary contact for constituent tours and flag requests.

Melissa is the second child of Carey and Paula Hite of Irmo and is a 2009 graduate of Wake Forest University.

Melissa's hard work and patience have been a valuable asset to the office. It is with sincere gratitude that I would like to thank Melissa for her enthusiasm and dedication to our office and the people of the Second Congressional District of South Carolina.

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS N. CLARK

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. MCCARTHY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Thomas N. Clark, former

General Manager of the Kern County Water Agency and respected water expert in our community, who passed away on July 23, 2011, after battling cancer.

While Tom rose to the height of California water politics as General Manager of the Kern County Water Agency, KCWA, he was proud of his Oildale beginnings and never let anyone forget that. After graduating from North High School in 1963, he served for two years in the United States Army and married his sweetheart, Karen. Tom and Karen moved back to Bakersfield in 1970, and he quickly earned degrees from Bakersfield College and California State University, Bakersfield. Tom then received a full scholarship to the University of Pittsburgh, where he received a Master's Degree in water supply and pollution.

Back in Bakersfield, Tom began his career with KCWA in 1974. During this time, he honed his understanding and knowledge of California water contract law, as well as the ins and outs of Kern County and California water policy. He left KCWA in 1978 and went to work for the late local farmer and entrepreneur George Nickel, where he learned a great deal about Kern River water rights. He later returned to KCWA and became General Manager in 1990, serving in this capacity for 14 years.

As General Manager, Tom was at the center of California water politics, fighting tirelessly for Kern County residents and farmers to ensure our local communities received the water they needed and were entitled to. Recognized as a skilled and shrewd negotiator, Tom could wade through complex water problems to achieve collaborative, win-win solutions, all the while improving water supply reliability for Kern County.

One of Tom's greatest achievements and lasting legacies was the Monterey Agreement, which he helped negotiate with the California Department of Water Resources and other State Water Project contractors. This averted an agricultural disaster in Kern County by preventing tens of thousands of acres of farmland from being fallowed because of lack of water. He also was at the table and worked on the historic 1994 Bay Delta Accord, which provided an agreement among water agencies and environmentalists, leading to the CalFed Record of Decision by the United States Department of the Interior.

To provide more water reliability and supply stability, Tom was the driving force behind the Pioneer Project, a 2,253-acre groundwater recharge and water banking project located in Kern County, which KCWA operates to this day. This project was deservedly renamed the "Thomas N. Clark Recharge and Banking Project" in 2010. His leadership over the years helped KCWA navigate through "wet" and "dry" years, and the benefits of that leadership are still seen throughout the community and at all levels of government.

Tom is survived by his wife, Karen, his children, Krista and Jeff, and his grandchild, Henry. I will miss Tom's great sense of humor and barbecuing, but I know he will be fondly remembered as a strong leader who was a passionate advocate for Kern County water and respected by many.

HONORING COLONEL ADELE E. HODGES, USMC ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the United States Marine Corps and the Marine Cadets of America in extending my sincere congratulations to Col. Adele E. Hodges as she retires after 33 years of dedicated service to the Marines. A Connecticut native, Colonel Hodges has demonstrated a unique dedication to the service of our nation and I am proud to have this opportunity to recognize her outstanding military career.

Following her graduation from Southern Connecticut State College, Colonel Hodges enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in June of 1978 and less than a year later was accepted into the Enlisted Commissioning Program. Beginning her career in a time when few women were entering the military, Colonel Hodges worked diligently to rise through the ranks and has built a reputation and record of service that is enviable by any standard. Her assignments have taken her to Japan, Hawaii, Louisiana, California, and Virginia. She has served at the U.S. Naval War College in Rhode Island, the NATO Joint Headquarters North East and the NATO Joint Warfare Centre in Stavanger, Norway. She concluded her career assigned to Headquarters United States Marine Corps Office of the Inspector General as the Director of Readiness Assessments.

Throughout her military career, Colonel Hodges has been recognized with the Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with 3 Stars, and a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal. To say that Colonel Hodges has broken through barriers would be an understatement and her home state of Connecticut could not be more proud of the extraordinary officer she has become.

An organization in my home town of New Haven, Connecticut, the Marine Cadets of America, owes a debt of gratitude to Colonel Hodges. The Marine Cadets is a program that provides at-risk youth with training and activities designed to promote awareness of the dangers of drug/substance abuse and promote pride both in one's self and in one's community. It was through the assistance and support of Colonel Hodges that the Marine Cadets of America was formally recognized by the Corps—a designation that the organization had been seeking for several years. For the many marines that volunteer for the program as well as the cadets whose lives are changed by their participation, this recognition was extremely meaningful. I am honored to have this opportunity to thank Colonel Hodges for the personal commitment she gave to this effort.

For both her exemplary service to our nation in the United States Marine Corps as well as her personal contributions to our community, I am proud to stand today to pay tribute to Col. Adele E. Hodges. Hers is a legacy that will continue to inspire others for generations to come and I extend my very best wishes to her for many more years of health and happiness.