

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

as she embarks on this new chapter of her life.

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. 325 I was unable to cast my vote on the House floor because I was ill. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

INTRODUCTION ON THE TERRITORIES ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2011

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, today I have introduced the "Territories Economic Development Opportunity Act," a bill which would amend Title 23 of United States Code, to provide for the participation of the territories in Federal-aid highway discretionary programs. The bill provides a statutory fix to redress an inequity in transportation funding options for Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

I thank my colleagues, Congresswoman DONNA CHRISTENSEN of the U.S. Virgin Islands; Congressman ENI FALCOMA of American Samoa; and Congressman GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for their cosponsorship of this important legislation. The "Territories Economic Development Opportunity Act" ensures that our jurisdictions are able to compete for discretionary programs administered by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Currently, the jurisdictions of Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands are not eligible to compete for funding under the National Bridge Program or the Ferry Boats and Ferry Terminal Facilities program. This legislation would make the territories eligible to compete under these discretionary funding accounts.

Economic development and facilitation of commerce in each of these jurisdictions is important. On Guam, a safe and comprehensive road network is important to facilitating improvements in our tourism industry. It is also important for the transport of military equipment and personnel from Andersen Air Force Base to Navy Base Guam. Without a well developed and maintained road network, these industries on Guam would be difficult to sustain. Therefore, a stronger infrastructure network is important to maintaining and expanding these economic lynchpins of Guam's economy.

However, in an era of declining budgets and given the current planned reductions in discretionary spending (according to the current deficit that will be voted on today by the House of Representatives), it is prudent and responsible to ensure that the territories have the same opportunity as any other jurisdiction to

compete for discretionary funding to improve their infrastructure systems. Each of our territories has a unique economic situation but we all recognize the importance of having a robust infrastructure system to facilitate commerce and economic opportunities in each of our jurisdictions. For example, on Guam, as the realignment of military forces begins implementation, it may be necessary to develop a ferry system so that civilians and military alike can go between Guam and ports within the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. In any of the 50 states, the development of a ferry system could be aided, in part, by federal funding through the Ferry Boats and Ferry Terminal Facilities Program. However, this would not be possible on Guam or any of the other smaller territories.

Further, major bridge projects on Guam like the Ylig Bridge Replacement or the Route 4 Bridge repairs are not eligible for competitive funding under the National Bridge Program. Instead, such projects must solely be funded through the Territorial Highway Program. Given the scope and cost of many of these projects, other road projects are deferred or go unfunded. Thus, it is important to give the small territories the same opportunity to compete for this critical funding as any one of the 50 states.

Mr. Speaker, this bill allows us to begin a discussion about the treatment of the territories in any forthcoming development of a surface transportation reauthorization bill. In an era of tight budgets, it is only fair and right to allow Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to compete for critical infrastructure funding that will help to develop economic opportunities and facilitate commerce in each of our respective jurisdictions.

RECOGNIZING THE SUCCESS OF THE PARADA SAN JUAN BAUTISTA IN CAMDEN, NEW JERSEY

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Puerto Rican community of Camden on the occasion of the Parada San Juan Bautista. The parade celebrates St. John the Baptist, the patron saint of Puerto Rico and the namesake of its capital, San Juan. This year's festivities occurred on Sunday, June 26th and marked the 54th anniversary of the annual parade.

In 1957, parishioners from Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church decided to organize a parade. Their goal was to promote a positive image of Puerto Rican heritage and to share their culture with the city of Camden. This first parade has since expanded into a month-long celebration. The current organizers' dual objectives are to strengthen ties within the Puerto Rican community and with the larger Camden community.

The Parada San Juan Bautista holds special significance to the Puerto Rican community in Camden. It is an opportunity for them to share their culture with friends and enables them to pass on their traditions to younger genera-

tions. This year's parade travelled a mile-long route through the city and featured fire fighters from Camden and Philadelphia on their trucks. In addition to the parade, the day included traditional singing, dancing, and foods, all culminating in a concert on the beautiful Camden Waterfront. I thank the Puerto Rican community for all they do to enrich and support South Jersey, and I pay special recognition to this year's Parada San Juan Bautista.

IN TRIBUTE TO HENRY "HANK" LACAYO ON HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to Henry "Hank" Lacayo, who will celebrate his 80th birthday next month.

Despite the fact that Hank and I disagree on just about every political issue, we have become friends over the many decades we have known each other. Hank is a man of great integrity and intelligence. What we do have in common is a great love of our country and a desire to do whatever is in our power to make America a better place for all Americans.

As Hank knows, I greatly respect his right to be wrong on how to get there, as I'm sure he says the same about me.

To say Hank Lacayo is a union man is to say that Hershey makes chocolate.

I haven't time to list all of Hank's accomplishments, but let me touch on some of the highlights:

Hank began his labor career in 1953, and was soon elected to serve as President of UAW Local 887, representing over 32,000 workers at North American Aviation/Rockwell International in Los Angeles. In 1974, he accepted a position with the union's national headquarters in Detroit, Michigan, as an Executive Assistant to then President Leonard Woodcock.

He was appointed National Director of UAW's political and legislative department. Under Democratic administrations, beginning with John F. Kennedy, he served as advisor to both current and past presidents of the United States. He has also been involved with the electoral process of U.S. Senators, U.S. Representatives, State Governors and legislators, and national advocacy organizations throughout America.

Hank is listed in Who's Who in Labor, First Edition. He currently serves as a Commissioner of the California Commission on Aging, is a past member of the CCoA Executive Committee and chair of the policy/advocacy committee. He is the State President of the Congress of California Seniors and a member of the board of directors of: the Ventura County Community Foundation; El Concilio Family Services; St. Barnabas Senior Services in L.A.; Health Access; Jewish Labor Committee; California Foundation on Aging; and CSU-CI Foundation; and Board Chair for La Hermandad. He is also a member of the Cal State University Channel Island President's Circle.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in wishing Hank a Happy 80th Birthday and wishing him many more with his wife, Leah, his family, and his many friends.