

and supplier of plastics for the automobile industry. The third pillar of the company group Otto Bock is Sycor. Formerly part of the computer department of Otto Bock, the information and communication technology company develops customized solutions for company networks.

Otto Bock's Rochester Hills facility will focus on advanced products and manufacturing of technologies of noise-reducing NVH Foam Parts for automotive engines and will eventually bring nearly \$14 million in capital investments and 100 jobs to our community.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to welcome the entire Otto Bock family to Michigan's 9th Congressional District and I am honored to recognize Otto Bock Polyurethane Technologies and the dedicated individuals who work to maintain its mission of innovation. I know that the leadership of Otto Bock will find some of the best engineers and skilled workers in the world here to further its work in advanced technology and manufacturing. I look forward to Otto Bock maintaining its strong tradition of innovation, excellence and good corporate citizenship in our communities for many decades to come.

MS. RITA LACEY

HON. LOU BARLETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Mr. BARLETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Rita Lacey of Close the Loop, for her excellent work as an entrepreneur. Ms. Lacey has managed to merge business and the phrase "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" through her business, Close the Loop LLC.

Close the Loop LLC began in 2000. Ms. Lacey started a new venture with no background in sales or accounting. Its aim was to help United States manufacturers of recycled products build the demand for their products made from recycled materials. By 2008, Close the Loop had shipped more than 7 million pounds of rubber mulch and more than 130,000 pounds of plastic fencing.

In 2009, a time of economic downturn led Ms. Lacey's company to get more socially involved in the community. Close the Loop organized free community events such as "Give and Take Days," during which community members donated items they no longer needed and took items they could use. Ms. Lacey has passed her business knowledge to others by offering free workshops and classes at Careerlink in Tannersville and the Monroe County Chamber of Commerce. She shows unemployed and underemployed people how they can start their own business while on a limited budget. I commend Ms. Lacey for all she has done as an entrepreneur and a philanthropist.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the efforts that Rita Lacey has made. It is citizens such as Ms. Lacey that make Northeastern Pennsylvania a wonderful place to live and work. In these struggling times, it is wonderful to see all of the positive work Ms. Lacey is doing to promote her community.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF MR.
RICHARD "FOZ" RYAN

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of Mr. Richard "Foz" Ryan, teacher, coach and community servant, who passed away this week on Monday, October 10, 2011.

A native of East St. Louis, Illinois, Foz Ryan was a competitive athlete who blended his interests in education and sports as a highly successful coach. Foz coached an impressive array of sports over a 36 year career, including basketball, football, cross country, track and volleyball. The lessons learned by his athletes enabled them to achieve success, not only in their athletic pursuits, but in life as well.

Foz never faced a worthy cause he did not champion or an event he could not organize. He became involved with the Special Olympics over 30 years ago and was a dedicated supporter of that organization ever since. While Foz was honored for his years of service to Special Olympics he noted that his true reward came through his interaction with the Special Olympics athletes.

Through his work with the Knights of Columbus and the Ancient Order of Hibernians, Foz organized and initiated a number of community events, including the annual St. Patrick's Day parade in Belleville, Illinois, which was founded through Foz's initiative and which has grown in popularity every year.

Always proud of his Irish ancestry, Foz made several trips to Ireland and worked tirelessly to promote an appreciation for Irish heritage within his community. He was honored as the "Hibernian of the Year" and held every office of his local chapter of the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

Foz Ryan's lifetime of achievement was accomplished through his roles as a teacher, coach, mentor, volunteer, fund-raiser and community servant. He is now reunited with his wife, Shirley, to whom he was married for 44 years and who preceded him in death in 2000. Foz is survived by three children, Theresa, Timothy and Patrick, and eight grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the life of Mr. Richard "Foz" Ryan, offering our best wishes to his family and recognizing the indelible mark he left on his community and in the hearts of everyone who knew him.

A GOTHAM HEART—IN HONOR OF
AN AMERICAN HERO, PFC BYRAN
A. DILBERIAN, JR., UNITED
STATES ARMY, 10TH MOUNTAIN
DIVISION, 1ST BATTALION, 32ND
INFANTRY REGIMENT

HON. MICHAEL G. GRIMM

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Mr. GRIMM. Mr. Speaker, on July 1, 2011 PFC Bryan Dilberian, Jr., while on patrol in Arghandab Valley in Afghanistan, was nearly killed by an Improvised Explosive Device that

took both of Bryan's legs and an arm. His brother in arms, SPC Jimmy Waters died literally in his arms from the same IED explosion.

But, because of his Gotham Heart and extraordinary will to live, and not just live but flourish, he is now walking less than three months from the day he lost his legs. His courage is a lesson to us all in the resilience of the human spirit. PFC Dilberian and his wonderful family make us all proud to be Americans; their faith, courage, and character throughout this trying ordeal is an inspiration, and like all Wounded Warriors, are shining examples for our nation. I submit this poem penned by Mr. Albert Caswell to honor PFC Bryan Dilberian Jr. of The Tenth Mountain Division from Brooklyn, New York and his fallen brother in arms SFC Jimmy Waters.

A GOTHAM HEART

(By Mr. Albert Caswell)

A Gotham Heart!

And from this Gotham City of great consequence!

Has but come such a fine young Man, to all hearts to so enhance!

A Man of such heart and soul, to warm our hearts when they are cold!

Oh yes my Lord, something so special so . . . as but such a sheer work of art, to behold!

One Mountain of a Man! Tenth Mountain . . . "The Chosen" . . . America's Son,

who makes all of us so very proud this one! As One of The Band of Brothers, known as 10th Mountain Men!

Angels put upon this earth, to but protect us all our Lord has sent!

Oh to be A Tenth Mountain Man!

Magnificent . . . Magnificent . . . Magnificent!

And so gallantly off to war, for all of us he so went!

Who upon battlefields of honor bright!

One of Brooklyn's best, who so makes all our hearts ignite!

As so soon Bryan, you began your new fight! While, out on patrol . . . as you so stood at death's door that night!

Losing your two strong legs, and arm of might!

As the tears rolled down your most precious eyes, this sight!

And your Brother In Arms SPC James Waters, almost in your arms so died!

As the Angels cried, The Angels Cried!

As there they found you together side by side . . .

And Bryan, you so said to yourself, I will live! I will not die!

Armed now, with only the kind of courage that makes the Angels cry!

As Bryan you so wiped away all of those tears from your most brilliant eyes!

To so teach as all, how high a heart can rise! All about, what within a Gotham Heart so lies!

Even Batman, doesn't have such a Gotham Heart as comprised!

With such courage and faith, oh how Bryan you make us cry!

As you were off running, for you had mountains to so climb!

In less than three months Bryan, you would walk with your head held high!

Making your wonderful Mother Mary Jane, and your family so cry!

With your heart as big as New York City, full of courage . . . as tall as any building does rise!

Yea, The Beastly Boys ought to write a song about your life . . . Word!

Don't Sleep to Brooklyn, might be one of the lines!

Showing us all, as to what new heights a heart can climb!
 Beseeking us all to behold, the beauty of mankind!
 As against all odds, somehow Bryan the way back you'd find!
 As you live each new day, all in honor of your Brother Waters in kind!
 And that blood that binds you, forever in time!
 For in your heart your brother in arms, Machine Gunner . . . this American Hero will never die!
 Yes, Strength In Honor Bryan . . . is what your most courageous life defines!
 As so Gotham is your heart, so beating here now so in time!
 For all in your life, you will so teach woman and mankind!
 Because, Tenth Mountain man . . . you do, you do shine . . .
 For Bryan there is no mountain that you cannot climb!
 All over this Gotham City with your Gotham heart in time!
 Yes, arms and legs we all need . . . but we can survive!
 But, without a Gotham Heart of Gold . . . we will surely die!
 Because, up in Heaven you need not arms or legs!
 And Bryan my son, that's where your are going one day!
 And you will look into our Lord's eyes!
 And if ever I have a son?
 I wish he'd have a heart as Gotham, as your one!
 Hooah Bryan! For you have mountains to so climb!
 And you have miles to go, and hearts to heal and inspire before you die!
 As Bryan, out across our Nation your Gotham Heart so cries!

HONORING GERALD SCOTT

HON. TOM MARINO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of my constituent, Mr. Gerald Scott, on the occasion of his induction as a distinguished alumnus of Mountain View High School.

Mr. Scott graduated from Mountain View High School in 1970, after which he received his Associate's Degree from Keystone College and his Bachelor's Degree from Wilkes College, all while working as a carpenter and a machinist. In 1983, he received his Master's of Science Degree from the University of Virginia and two years later his Doctorate. Mr. Scott then began his career at Alcoa as a senior engineer overseeing the Wire and Bar Division of the company. Mr. Scott gained invaluable experience while at Alcoa, primarily in the field of international business, as he was able to travel to Asia, Europe, Australia, and South America on behalf of Alcoa.

Mr. Scott has numerous patents and publications, both here in the United States and internationally. His community involvement includes membership to the Carnegie Museum, service as a judge for Junior Academy of Science at the University Of Pennsylvania Wharton School Of Business, automotive racing consultant to the NHRA, and a NASA advisory board member. Gerald and his wife, Lynn, are the proud parents of three children, Alexander, Philip, and Karl.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of my constituent, Mr. Gerald Scott, and ask my colleagues to join me in praising his commitment to country and community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, October 11, 2011, I inadvertently voted "no" on rollcall No. 774. I intended to vote "aye."

UNITED STATES-PANAMA TRADE PROMOTION AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 11, 2011

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the U.S.-Panama Free Trade Agreement.

We have been waiting to vote on this agreement since it was first signed in 2007, which means four years of lost opportunities.

But now we have a chance to repair that damage.

In the past year alone, Panama's economy grew 6.2 percent, making it one of the fast growing in Latin America and an expanding opportunity for American exporters.

Panama is already among Miami-Dade county's top 25 trading partners, and Florida as a whole ranks number one among the 50 States in exports to that country.

These figures will only increase once the FTA has been approved and American businesses no longer face heavy tariffs and other artificial barriers to trade.

Currently, U.S. industrial exports face an average tariff of 7 percent, with some tariffs as high as 81 percent.

Once this agreement goes into effect, 87 percent of all U.S. goods exported to Panama will become duty-free immediately.

In the past 4 years since the U.S.-Panama Free Trade Agreement was signed, American companies have paid millions upon millions of dollars in tariffs to the Panamanian government.

Those are dollars needlessly spent by U.S. businesses, which they could have used for investments and expansion here in the U.S. instead of paying fees to a foreign government.

Approval of the U.S.-Panama FTA will eliminate this transfer of wealth, increase U.S. exports, and create new jobs here at home that so many Americans are desperately searching for.

The agreement also has many other provisions of importance to U.S. businesses, especially strengthening intellectual property rights, which are under assault around the world.

In addition to the potential economic growth stemming from this agreement, Panama is a key strategic ally in the region.

Ever since the Panama Canal was completed a century ago, Panama's importance to

the U.S. has only increased as a major transportation route, with two-thirds of its traffic consisting of shipments between our west and east coasts.

For these many reasons—expanded exports, increased jobs, and closer ties with a strategic ally—I strongly urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote in favor of the U.S.-Panama Free Trade Agreement.

AMERICAN TRADE AGREEMENTS

HON. ROBERT T. SCHILLING

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 12, 2011

Mr. SCHILLING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in the spirit of competition, in support of American workers and as an advocate for a government that seeks to provide economic certainty for the businesses that create jobs in this country.

Later today, the House will vote on bipartisan trade agreements with Colombia, Panama and South Korea. These agreements represent an opportunity to compete, grow jobs and promote American exports.

Here is what we know. Ninety-five percent of the world's customers live outside of our great country.

Here is what I believe. If America gives itself the opportunity to compete with other countries—like these three agreements will—American manufacturers and farmers will deliver, and we will win.

Job creation is a red, white and blue issue. And that is why you see Democrats and Republicans coming together to provide this opportunity for American exports to compete.

In the 17th District of Illinois which I have the honor to represent, I recently visited a company that manufactures mining trucks. Nine out of 10 of these mining trucks are bought by customers overseas. These jobs are dependent on exports. This same company also manufactures bulldozers, 8 out of 10 of which are sold to buyers overseas. Yet again, this is an example of jobs being created because of demand for American products by customers in the global economy.

These trade agreements will reduce tariffs on goods and remove barriers that are currently in place. By leveling the playing field for our manufacturers and farmers, we can further promote these cornerstones of the American economy. We need to enact policies that strengthen our manufacturing base which is why I am a cosponsor to legislation offered by my colleague and friend, DAN LIPINSKI. Three million manufacturing jobs and almost 4 million agriculture sector jobs are dependent on U.S. exports.

The independent U.S. International Trade Commission estimates that these agreements will increase American-made exports by \$13 billion and inject \$10 billion to our GDP. President Obama estimates that these agreements could create a quarter-of-a-million jobs.

According to the Congressional Research Service, the last time the United States signed a trade agreement was back in 2006 with Peru. These FTA's could have been sent to Congress back in 2009. Every day we hold off on is a day we deny American workers the opportunity to compete.

These trade agreements aren't about rhetoric, they are about results. We cannot afford