

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE TO MARY “MITZI”
PERDUE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 13, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to honor Mary “Mitzi” Perdue for her tremendous generosity to personal charities and organizations.

Ms. Perdue was born into a life of privilege, being the daughter of Sheraton Hotel founder Ernest Henderson. With her privileged life, she decided to dedicate herself to public service and philanthropic causes. At a young age her parents instilled a sense of giving that carried with her throughout her life. One of her life mottos is, “It’s the givers of the world who are the happiest”.

Ms. Perdue pursued an education at Harvard. Upon graduation she began a career in communications writing a syndicated column on the environment, first for Capitol News in California and then for Scripps Howard, nationally. At its peak, “The Environment and You” went to 420 newspapers, and the total number of columns was more than 1100. The articles focused mainly on how individuals could protect the environment, but they also encouraged students to study science, so they could play a role in saving the planet.

Ms. Perdue also wrote more than 250 columns on charities for my local paper and occasionally for national magazines. The columns and articles provided recognition to the charities and let readers know about each charity’s needs and services. Many of the charities couldn’t afford a professional writer, and yet they needed to communicate with their supporters.

Ms. Perdue understands the importance of her philanthropic activities that if philanthropies don’t develop strong bonds with their donors and volunteers, their supporters may, over time, drift away. To this extent she donates the location, the food, the beverages, the decorations, and the wait staff for parties of between 10–110 guests. In the last four years, Ms. Perdue has entertained close to 4500 people at her home. Ninety-five percent of these events have been charity-related, but some have also been book parties, since, as a (soon-to-be-former) Commissioner of the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, she loves the idea of encouraging authors.

Another charitable interest of hers is supporting veterans. In the past, Perdue Farms won the nation-wide Pro Patria Award largely because her and her husband wrote personalized monthly letters to overseas Reservists.

In her life, Ms. Perdue lives by one quote by Aristotle, “the only true success in life is to find yourself in service to the community”. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Ms. Mary “Mitzi” Perdue for her dedicated public service and charitable giving.

UNITED STATES-PANAMA TRADE
PROMOTION AGREEMENT IMPLE-
MENTATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 11, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 3079, the United States-Panama Trade Implementation Act.

OPPOSING NAFTA-STYLE TRADE POLICIES

With all the talk this Congress about addressing the deficit, you might think that Democrat and Republican supporters of these agreements would be even more concerned about a larger deficit that is responsible for the displacement of thousands of American jobs—the trade deficit.

Our rapidly increasing trade deficits with countries like China and Mexico have displaced millions of jobs over the past decade. According to Economic Policy Institute (EPI), the U.S.-China Free Trade Agreement resulted in the displacement of over 2.3 million American workers between 2001 and 2007, as a direct result of the increase in China trade deficits. U.S. producers of apparel, steel and technology (parts) have been the industries most significantly impacted by imports from China. Two-thirds of those jobs displaced were in the manufacturing sector—resulting in the outsourcing of hundreds of thousands of American jobs in the computer and electronic parts, apparel and accessories and fabricated metal production sectors.

It is these same industries that will be further affected by the proposed trade deals with Korea, Panama and Colombia.

Yet today we are considering NAFTA-style free trade agreements that are projected to continue in this tradition. Those of us who were in Congress during the debates on NAFTA and CAFTA have heard the promises of more jobs and economic opportunity from supporters of free trade. These promises have never materialized.

NAFTA’s record is clear: it is negative for jobs, negative for democracy and negative for the environment.

PANAMA FREE TRADE AGREEMENT: GOOD FOR MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS, BAD FOR THE RULE OF LAW

Madam Speaker, the Panama trade agreement is good for multinational corporations and bad for the rule of law.

An April 2009 report by Public Citizen on the Panama trade agreement found that it would undermine U.S. efforts to stop offshore tax-haven abuse and undermine financial regulations.

Among the key findings: some of the corporations who were the largest recipients of U.S. federal procurement contracts and money under the Troubled Asset Relief Program—including Citigroup—have dozens of subsidiaries in Panama that would be granted expansive new rights under this trade agreement. So firms that were bailed out with U.S. taxpayer

dollars, like AIG and Citigroup, are being rewarded with a trade agreement that undermines U.S. efforts to stop offshore tax-haven abuse.

As Public Citizen notes, “Panama’s tiny economy provides no prospects for significant U.S. economic gains. Panama’s total annual GDP is about 6 percent of Washington, D.C.” Like NAFTA, this trade agreement includes provisions that allow investors to challenge the U.S. government in international courts—and demand U.S. taxpayer compensation—for U.S. policies that conflict with their expansive rights under the FTA to “free transfers” (i.e.: conflict with their bottom line).

At a time when we should be focusing on strengthening worker’s rights and investing in domestic manufacturing and infrastructure and job creation, a trade deal with Panama that is unlikely to have any significant effect at all on creating jobs or increasing imports is the wrong way to go.

It is abundantly clear that this trade agreement is not about expanding opportunity for the American worker, but about expanding opportunity for multinational corporations and their subsidiaries. Just like NAFTA.

REWARDING PANAMA FOR ITS FAILURE TO ABIDE BY
INTERNATIONAL TAX NORMS

With the Panama trade agreement, we are rewarding a country for failing to abide by even the minimum transparency standards for tax norms. An April 2009 tax-haven watch list by the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) cites Panama as one of thirty countries that agreed to conform to international tax norms but failed to do so. The OECD reports that Panama made such a commitment in 2002 and has not since completed a single agreement to fulfill its commitment.

According to Public Citizen, Panama is “one of only 13 countries—and the only current or prospective FTA partner—that is listed on all of the major tax-haven watchdog lists that does not also have U.S. tax transparency treaties.”

If you’re still not convinced to vote against the Panama trade agreement, this laundry list from Public Citizen may help: The Panama trade agreement “includes extreme foreign investor privileges, and offshoring protections and their private enforcement in international tribunals, limits on financial and other service sector regulation, a ban on Buy America procurement preferences, limits on environmental safeguards and imported food and product safety, and drug patent rules that limit generics.”

The AFL-CIO correctly notes that with this agreement, we are rewarding “a country that has a history of repressing labor rights and has achieved much of its economic growth by making it easy for money launderers and tax dodgers to hide their income from legitimate authorities.”

I urge my colleagues to join me in opposing the Panama free trade agreement.

LABOR RIGHTS IN PANAMA

The rights of workers, which have increasingly come under attack in this country, are

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

also at risk under these NAFTA-style trade agreements.

In Panama, a 2010 State Department Human Rights report notes that “the government lacked sufficient mechanisms to ensure that laws prohibiting employer interference in unions and protecting workers from employer reprisals were adequately enforced.”

We should not be entering into a trade agreement with a country that has yet to demonstrate its ability to uphold international standards for labor rights and financial regulation. We cannot afford to reward corporations for offshoring jobs and tax-evasion at a time of historic budget constraints.

Panama’s track record on fulfilling its promises is clear: just as it failed to adequately address its status as a tax-haven wonderland; it too has failed in its promise to adequately protect its workers from reprisals due to union activity.

JOBS LOSS UNDER NAFTA

It is undisputable that NAFTA has led to widespread job loss across this country. In a report titled “Heading South: U.S.-Mexico trade and job displacement after NAFTA,” EPI estimates that the U.S. trade deficit with Mexico totaling \$97.2 billion has displaced nearly 700,000 U.S. jobs. This number takes into account any jobs that were created through U.S. exports to Mexico. Like NAFTA, the Korea and Colombia FTAs are expected to result in the loss of over 200,000 jobs and increase our trade deficit by \$16.9 billion.

The majority of those jobs were in the manufacturing sector. Like Korea, much of our trade with Mexico is in the same industries that took a big hit under NAFTA.

We cannot have a strong economy without a strong manufacturing base. Any investments this Congress makes to rebuild our infrastructure and our domestic manufacturing sector would be significantly undermined by the passage of the three free trade agreements we are considering today. NAFTA-style free trade agreements that rapidly increase our trade deficit and lead to the further diminishment of our manufacturing employment base are not the answer.

“WHITE-COLLAR SERVICE JOBS” VULNERABLE TO BEING OFFSHORED

NAFTA-style trade policies are not just destructive to our domestic manufacturing and textile sectors. So called “White-Collar” service jobs are now some of the jobs most vulnerable to offshoring.

Alan S. Binder, a former Clinton advisor and member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve—and supporter of free trade—came up with a list of the top 100 jobs that are most likely to be offshored over the next 10–20 years as a result of our free trade policies. Those jobs include computer programmers, mathematicians, editors, actuaries and even economists. A 2007 paper by the Economic Policy Institute took the research one step further and found that the demographic most vulnerable to offshoring are persons with at least a four-year college degree.

Since the era of the WTO and NAFTA, U.S. wages have been stagnant and barely increased since 1973. Workers in the manufacturing sector displaced by our trade policies and looking for new work will be forced to go into service fields with even lower wages where jobs are not threatened to be offshored, such as in food service and hospitality.

Our \$776 billion trade deficit has already displaced hundreds of thousands of American

workers. It is time to end expansion of NAFTA to other countries. We have over a decade of evidence and the evidence is clear: this free trade model is damaging for our economy, our workers, the environment and for global economic security. It is time for fair trade, not free trade.

A TRIBUTE TO RITA COSBY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 13, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to honor Ms. Rita Cosby, a charismatic New Yorker who’s energy and passion for her work is an inspiration to us all.

Prior to joining network news, Rita was an anchor/reporter for CBS affiliates in Bakersfield, California and Charlotte, North Carolina. During her tenure there, she broke numerous stories, reporting that Susan Smith drowned her young sons and that the father of NBA superstar Michael Jordan was murdered. Her investigative report inside a Tijuana, Mexico prison exposed government corruption and allowed an American, who was held unlawfully, to be freed.

Honors for the three-time Emmy® winner include the Matrix Award, Headliner Award and Jack Anderson Award for journalism excellence. She was also selected by *Cosmopolitan Magazine* as a “Fun and Fearless Female.” A recipient of the Ellis Island Medal of Honor and the Lech Walesa Freedom Award, she hosts the National Memorial Day Parade broadcast to all US military installations around the world.

A highly sought-after keynote speaker, Rita has talked to major groups all over America, including heads of state in Washington, D.C., ambassadors and foreign ministers at the United Nations, as well as for countless celebrity, charity and especially military/veterans events from coast to coast.

Her first book, *Blonde Ambition*, was a New York Times bestseller and called “The most talked about book in America” by *Extra*. Her second book, *Quiet Hero: Secrets From My Father’s Past*, is the most personal and important story of her life, as she uncovered an amazing history of heroism and courage involving her own father and shares the incredible journey in this highly acclaimed and poignant memoir. As a result, her father Richard Cosby, was awarded a special recognition by the Medal of Honor Society for his bravery. The book has raised money for the USO to help wounded soldiers and their families.

She has headlined veterans’ events with Admiral Mike Mullen, The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, as well as with performers such as Tony Orlando and Charlie Daniels. Because of Rita’s “extraordinary journalism and exemplary service on behalf of her community,” October 11th, 2010 was officially named “Rita Cosby Day” in the State of New York.

Rita earned her bachelors’ degrees from the University of South Carolina, graduating with honors. She grew up in Greenwich, Connecticut and currently resides in the New York area.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Rita Cosby for her outstanding contribution to the fields of literature and journalism.

HONORING KAYE FLANAGAN,
LYNN KRAEMER GOLDFARB,
GAIL KELLY AND DONNA M.
LORING

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 13, 2011

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kaye Flanagan, Lynn Kraemer Goldfarb, Gail Kelly and Donna M. Loring on being awarded the 50th Annual Deborah Morton Award by The University of New England.

The Deborah Morton Award, first presented in 1961, was the first annual award in Maine to honor women who have achieved high distinction in their careers or whose leadership in civic, cultural or social causes has been exceptional. The award was named in memory of Deborah Morton of Round Pond, valedictorian of the 1879 class of the Westbrook Seminary. Morton was a teacher, dean, linguist, historian and prominent Portland civic leader whose service to the State of Maine spanned more than 60 years.

Kaye, Lynn, Gail and Donna all display the exceptional commitment to public service that Deborah Morton did. Their tireless efforts have improved the lives of thousands of Mainers from all walks of life. While their backgrounds and careers are diverse, their selfless devotion to their communities is a shining example to all of us. Their efforts are a testament to the legacy of Deborah Morton, and I wish them all continued success in the years to come.

Mr. Speaker, please join me again in recognizing Kaye Flanagan, Lynn Kraemer Goldfarb, Gail Kelly and Donna M. Loring for their outstanding commitment to the state of Maine and for the impressive example they set for Maine’s young women.

IN SUPPORT OF THE FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS, H.R. 3078, H.R. 3079, H.R. 3080

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 13, 2011

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Korea, Colombia and Panama Free Trade Agreements.

Mr. Speaker, global leadership is not attained with mere rhetoric; it is achieved, preserved and strengthened by demonstrating a commitment to action. Today, as the U.S. economy struggles through a prolonged period of slow-growth, our economic competitors are proactively engaged in eliminating or reducing barriers to their exports in foreign markets around the globe, especially in Asia and Latin America. If America intends to remain a global leader we cannot disengage from our critical strategic partnerships with Korea, Colombia and Panama.

Mr. Speaker, decades ago the U.S.-Korean partnership was forged on the battlefield. Soldiers from both of our nations fought and died together defending the freedom of the Korean people. Over the years, our relationship has flourished and Korea is now one of America’s most trusted allies in the world. A vote for this trade agreement is a representation of America’s ironclad commitment to Korea’s future