

Liberia, Ellen Sirleaf Johnson, for recently being awarded the Noble Peace Prize for 2011. She was given the award in conjunction with peace activist Leymah Gbowee and pro-democracy campaigner Tawakkol Karman. The trio was recognized for their nonviolent role in promoting peace, democracy, and gender equality.

In typical fashion, President Sirleaf gave credit to the Liberian people, "For we are now going into our ninth year of peace and every Liberian has contributed to it. We particularly give this credit to Liberian women, who have consistently led the struggle for peace, even under conditions of neglect."

South Carolina has a special relationship with Liberia many founders of the Republic of Liberia having a South Carolina heritage. I know firsthand the mutual affection of the people of our two countries in that I was present for the re-opening of the AME University in Monrovia where my constituent African Methodist Episcopal Bishop David Daniels of West Columbia, presided with Pastor Ronnie Brailsford of Bethel AIVIE, Columbia, SC. Appropriately Bishop Daniels is the Bishop of the Diocese of South Carolina and Liberia.

Her leadership has proven instrumental in restoring democracy and lasting peace in Liberia which had been devastated by Civil War. President George W. Bush was effective in demanding abdication by the murderous dictator Charles Taylor.

TO HONOR ERIC STRANSKY FOR
HIS SERVICE TO THE SOCIAL SECURITY
ADMINISTRATION AND
HIS MILITARY SERVICE

HON. STEVEN C. LATOURETTE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 14, 2011

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Eric Stransky, who recently retired after 35 years with the Social Security Administration, with 28 of those years in management.

Stransky has been a tenacious advocate for my constituents in need of help from the Painesville, OH, Social Security office, and has been a trusted and reliable source who has worked closely with my caseworkers to get problems resolved. He is a model employee and his departure will leave Social Security with very big shoes to fill.

A graduate of John Carroll University, Stransky has been lauded for his work at the SSA, and received a Regional Commissioner Citation for leading a workgroup that resolved over 5,000 overpayments in six weeks. He's been a Supervisor at many SSA locations in Ohio—Marietta, Athens, Painesville, Cleveland East and University Circle Area. In 1998, Stransky served as the Area System Coordinator ensuring a smooth transition for all employees in Northern Ohio to individual desktop system access.

Stransky managed the local Euclid office for two years, Warrensville Heights for three years, and spent eight years working just a few blocks from my district office in Painesville while juggling a two-year stint in the U.S. Army as a Senior Joint Doctrine Developer at the Joint and Allied Doctrine Division, Army Capabilities Integration Center in Ft. Monroe, VA.

Retired Lt. Col. Eric Stransky served in the US Army Reserve for more than 29 years. He attended the following Military Schools: Armor Officer Basic; Junior Officer Preventive Maintenance Course; Armor Officer Professional Development Course; OPSEC Course; Special Warfare Center and School, PSYOP Officer Course; Armor Officer Advance Course; United States Army Command & General Staff College; United Kingdom PSYOP Officer Course; Physical Security Course; Individual Terrorism Awareness; Logistics Managers Course; Joint PSYOP Course; Joint Planning Orientation Course; Joint PSYOP Staff Planning Course; Faculty Development Phase 1 Course and Commanders Safety Course. In June 1995, then a Major, he was Chief of Psychological Operations at a United Nations Mission in Haiti.

Stransky commissioned in the Army Reserve as a Second Lt. in July 1978 and continued to move up through the ranks, ultimately promoted to Lt. Col. in April 2000. He retired in August 2006, but remains actively involved with the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Catholic War Veterans.

Stransky has received the following Military honors: Legion of Merit; Army Meritorious Service Medal (3); Army Commendation Medal (2); Joint Service Achievement Medal; Army Achievement Medal; Army Reserve Achievement Medal (7); National Defense Service Medal w/star; Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; Armed Forces Service Medal; Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal; Armed Forces Reserve Medal (with silver hour glass and M(2) device); Reserve Component ODT Ribbon (6) and United Nations Mission in Haiti Medal.

Stransky has a great wit and a tremendous work ethic, and clearly can juggle many tasks at once with little effort. His military service has provided him with tremendous discipline and his attention to detail and process has catapulted the various Social Security offices he's managed into well-oiled, highly efficient, responsive and successful offices where both the employees and constituents are well served. He's a motivator who gets results.

With his remarkable career and his decades of service to our country, you might suspect that Eric Stransky is an Eagle Scout as well. And alas, he is.

It's been an honor and a privilege for me and my staff to work with a man whose goal in life is to help others, and it's a tough task to show him an appropriate level of gratitude. I'm sorry to see him go because he was one of a kind. He's served our nation and those in need with heart and purpose, and I wish him and his loving family all the best. Please enjoy your well-deserved retirement.

INTRODUCTION OF RAILROAD REHABILITATION & IMPROVEMENT FINANCING (RIFF) LEGISLATION

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 14, 2011

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to introduce legislation that makes significant improvements to the Railroad Rehabilitation & Improvement Financing Program (RRIF). The RRIF program can help

railroads, shippers, and states meet their rail infrastructure investment needs. But we are not taking full advantage of the program.

I meet with railroads and others that tell me—time and again—how difficult the application process is to navigate; how time consuming it is; how expensive and cumbersome it is, how they can't use studies from other DOT agencies; and, in the end, many of them tell me: It's just not worth it! Well we need to do better.

The draft Surface Transportation Authorization Act of 2009 made significant changes to the RRIF program, which I proposed. The bill authorized the Secretary to: (1) reduce the interest to be paid on direct loans provided to railroads, State and local governments, and eligible entities for the sole purpose of installing positive train control (PTC) systems; (2) allow applicants to use private insurance, including bond insurance, in lieu of a credit risk premium; and (3) allow applicants to pay the credit risk premium over the life of the loan. The draft bill also authorized appropriations to assist the Secretary in reducing the interest rates for loans used for installing PTC.

IN RECOGNITION OF TRAVIS CREDIT UNION ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 60TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 14, 2011

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, Representatives GEORGE MILLER and I rise today in honor of Travis Credit Union, who has served Solano County and its surrounding communities for 60 years. Originally opening as the Travis Air Force Base Federal Credit Union in the autumn of 1951, Travis Credit Union has grown to be the 13th largest credit union in California, and with \$1.8 billion in assets, among the top 100 in the country.

To the charter members of Travis Air Force Base Federal Credit Union, the cost of living in 1951 was likely a major reason they decided to create their own financial alternative to banks that made it easier for them to borrow and save money. When the credit union first opened, it was in a makeshift base office and served only military and civilian personnel at the base.

In December of 1951, Travis Air Force Base Federal Credit Union had 68 members and \$2,015 in deposits. In 1954, the credit union made its first house trailer loan and then moved into the Passenger Terminal Building in April of 1955. At the end of 1961 TAFB FCU had 5,0432 members and \$1.39 million in deposits. Membership was expanded to include military and U.S.-sponsored civilian personnel stationed overseas in 1964 and in 1965 the Executive Committee was created establishing a president, vice president, treasurer and secretary.

The Travis Air Force Base Federal Credit Union changed its name to Travis Federal Credit Union in 1974 and in 1977 construction of the first off-base branch in Fairfield was completed. Today, the credit union has 22 branches located throughout the region in the cities of Fairfield, Vacaville, Dixon, Suisun City, Benicia, Vallejo, Davis, Woodland, Napa, Concord, Antioch, Clayton, Merced and

Atwater; and is known as Travis Credit Union after a board approved switch to a state-chartered credit union took place in 2000.

Travis Credit Union serves 180,000 members in the communities of northern California and has \$1,020,037,614 in loans to these communities. Travis Credit Union provides a critical service to our community by offering higher rates on deposits, lower rates on loans, lower fees on services, convenient access and friendly service, and all while working to ensure their long-term viability as a not-for-profit banking alternative.

Mr. Speaker, we are truly honored to pay tribute to this important community institution as it celebrates 60 years of service. We ask our colleagues to join with us in thanking Travis Credit Union for its long and dedicated service to the citizens of Solano County and northern California, and in offering our best wishes for its continued success in the years ahead.

**SMALL COMPANY JOB GROWTH
AND REGULATORY RELIEF ACT
OF 2011**

HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 14, 2011

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss job creation and a solution that can create thousands of new jobs that will cost the American taxpayer nothing. Unemployed Americans are crying out for more jobs and urging Congress to review those rules and regulations which stifle innovation and job creation.

Today, I am proud to introduce the Small Company Job Growth and Regulatory Relief Act of 2011. This legislation will amend Section 404(b) of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, which requires a duplicative audit of companies with a public float of \$75 million or more. I am introducing this bill for one reason: to increase job creation on Main Street.

Mr. Speaker, current law basically requires an "audit of an audit" that costs small companies more than \$1 million each year. These burdensome costs are also discouraging companies from going public, which deprives firms of the capital needed to expand their business, create jobs, and hire more American workers. My bill will simply raise the current \$75 million threshold exemption in Section 404(b) to \$350 million, to exclude more companies from the "audit of an audit."

We must do all that we can to turn our economy around and get back on the path of creating jobs. It's these types of laws and regulations that are impeding economic growth. If we get Washington out of the way and allow companies to expand and create jobs, we will bring back opportunity to the United States and get folks back to work.

**HONORING EDRIE MAURICE
TALLEY PARRISH**

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 14, 2011

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to say that Our Lord has a new angel.

Edrie Maurice Talley Parrish went to be with Our Lord on October 4, 2011. A beloved mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, Edrie will be missed tremendously by all who were fortunate enough to have met this amazing woman.

Edrie was born to Robert and Mai Belle Talley on July 20, 1921, on the family's farm in Collin County, Texas, near the town of Frisco. When she was just 3 years old, she lost her father to pneumonia but continued to honor him through many great achievements in her long, rich life.

Edrie graduated from Hamilton High School in Hamilton, Texas, and soon after moved with her mother to Denton where she began attending North Texas State Teachers College, now known as University of North Texas. While in Denton, she met and married Herbert C. Parrish. Not long after their August 12, 1941, nuptials, the young couple packed their bags and moved across country to Columbus, Ohio, so Herbert could earn his Doctorate in mathematics. While in Columbus, Edrie finished her Bachelor of Arts in Institutional Management at Ohio State University. Shortly after the completion of both of their studies, Edrie and Herbert moved back to Denton in 1949 where Herbert accepted a job as a professor in the department of mathematics at North Texas State College and Edrie threw her boundless energy into raising a family of three.

She led a very active role in all of her children's activities, including being a Cub Scout leader and working with the Girl Scouts, and 4-H Club. She was well loved at Grace Temple Baptist Church in Denton where she was an active member of the congregation for half a century.

Her contributions to her church family include volunteering in the community and mission of her church, teaching Sunday school, committee service, visiting the sick and homebound, and helping out in numerous community service projects.

Edrie was preceded in death by her husband Herbert C. Parrish; and her sister Cloe Rita Talley Peck. She is survived by her three children: Byron Parrish of Brookline, Massachusetts; Norman Parrish of The Woodlands, Texas; and Roberta Parrish Starbird of Austin, Texas; seven grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

**ENCOURAGING OBSERVANCE OF
NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION
AWARENESS WEEK**

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 14, 2011

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, during National Fire Prevention Awareness week, I would like to encourage that we as a community make preparations to protect our families and neighbors from the tragedy and destruction caused by fires. This is a great opportunity to thank our community's firefighters who are the first to respond and put themselves at risk for our safety.

Our Manhattan Congressional District is fortunate to have many brave first responders, including those from the Uniformed Fire Association of Greater New York, FDNY Engine 69,

Ladder 28, Battalion 16 "Harlem Hilton," FDNY Engine 53, Ladder 43 "El Barrio's Bravest" and FDNY Rescue 3 "Big Blue," and the Vulcan Society, Inc. We must continue to show our cooperation and appreciation towards our firefighters, first responders and those who continuously ensure our neighborhoods are safe.

Simple precautions such as installing and maintaining smoke detectors in every apartment unit and on every floor of our homes and buildings, having an escape plan, and following fire codes can save countless lives. I would hope that people in my District and all across our great nation would take proper measures to prevent fires and potential harm in our communities.

**OPPOSITION TO THE FREE TRADE
AGREEMENTS, H.R. 3078, H.R. 3079,
AND H.R. 3080**

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 14, 2011

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 3078, the United States-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement Implementation Act, H.R. 3079, the United States-Panama Trade Promotion Agreement Implementation Act, and H.R. 3080, the United States-Korea Free Trade Agreement Implementation Act.

Trade opportunities are an important component of our nation's economic growth, but it is critical that our free trade agreements are fair and environmentally sound to ensure that American workers and companies can compete on a level playing field with our foreign trading partners. While I favor expanding global trade, I oppose trade agreements that lack key labor and environmental safeguards, thus allowing our trading partners to exploit regulations in their own countries that are far weaker than those in America.

These three trade agreements were negotiated under the Bush Administration, and I have long been skeptical of their potential impact on our workers, our environment and our domestic businesses. I am also concerned that grave and ongoing human rights violations against labor leaders and human rights workers in Colombia are not fully addressed in this legislation. While the current administration and my Ways and Means colleagues continued negotiations to revise these trade agreements by incorporating international labor standards and environmental agreement compliance, I remain unconvinced that these provisions will be meaningfully enforced. Unfortunately, I do not believe these trade agreements meet the minimum requirements necessary to protect our workers from increased job losses, safeguard our environment, or convince me this is the right step for our nation, and for these reasons, I voted against the three trade agreements.

I was pleased to vote for H.R. 2832, the Trade Adjustment Assistance and Generalized System of Preferences extension bill, which will extend the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program to assist workers laid off as a result of international trade by helping them retrain and acquire skills needed to compete in the global marketplace. TAA is a valuable program that provides unemployment benefits