

SEVERE WEATHER TRAGEDY IN  
TUSHKA, OKLAHOMA**HON. DAN BOREN**

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2011*

Mr. BOREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise this afternoon with a heavy heart.

Last night, powerful storms ripped through my district and the State of Oklahoma killing multiple people and causing millions of dollars in damage.

According to the National Weather Service, yesterday at 8:16 pm Oklahoma time, a tornado touched down near the town of Tushka, Oklahoma in Pushmataha County, killing at least two of my constituents and causing millions of dollars in damage.

This is a terrible tragedy.

Oklahomans are well aware of the threat they face every year from severe weather.

But this tragedy and these types of storms are never easy for anyone to bear.

In fact, the damage caused by yesterday's storm is very personal to me.

During my time representing eastern Oklahoma in the House of Representatives, I have visited the school in Tushka that has been destroyed by this storm.

Tushka is a small rural town in Southeastern Oklahoma.

A town much like many of the small communities each of us represent here in Congress.

The people of Tushka are a group of hard-working and resilient Oklahomans who will undoubtedly get through this tragedy.

But at this difficult moment, I want to pause and let the victims and families who are suffering because of these storms know that my wife Andrea and I are praying for them during this difficult hour.

RECOGNIZING ACCOMPLISHMENTS  
OF GINA L. BLEAN AND KELLY  
A. HEYSINGER**HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2011*

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of Dubuque business owners Gina L. Blean and Kelly A. Heysinger for winning the Small Business Administration's (SBA's) Iowa "Small Business Person of the Year" award. Gina and Kelly are co-owners of Unified Therapy Services, Inc. in Dubuque, Iowa.

Small businesses are the driving force behind our economy and I couldn't be prouder of this one. This prestigious award is only bestowed upon the nation's top entrepreneurs—and I'm glad to see the entrepreneurial spirit flourishing in eastern Iowa. We must continue to promote our small businesses and make sure that they can thrive and create new jobs.

In May, the SBA will honor Gina, Kelly, and other winners from across the country in Washington, DC, during National Small Business Week. The SBA will also select the "National Small Business Person of the Year" from the state "Small Business Persons of the Year." I will be rooting for them to win this prestigious national award.

FIRST LEGACY COMMUNITY  
CREDIT UNION**HON. MELVIN L. WATT**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2011*

Mr. WATT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a credit union located in my Congressional District, First Legacy Community Credit Union, on 70 years of service to its members. First Legacy, originally named School Workers Federal Credit Union, was founded in Charlotte, North Carolina, on February 14, 1941, by a group of educators in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System. At its beginning, First Legacy offered a simple savings and loan program; today, it offers a broad range of financial services to its members. First Legacy Community Credit Union's continued dedication to serving the community, as well as efforts to increase financial literacy in North Carolina, is worthy of special recognition. I commend the work that First Legacy Community Credit Union continues to do and wish this outstanding community credit union another 70 years of success.

HONORING GOODWILL INDUSTRIES  
OF MID-MICHIGAN**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2011*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Goodwill Industries of Mid-Michigan as they celebrate their 80th anniversary. A celebration will be held on April 29th in my hometown of Flint, Michigan, to commemorate this milestone.

In 1931 the Oak Park Methodist Church established an agency to assist people with disabilities and Goodwill Industries of Mid-Michigan was born. The agency's heart is centered on serving the needs of persons facing a variety of barriers, including physical and mental disabilities, illiteracy, substance abuse, inadequate education, ex-felons, and welfare dependency. Headquartered in Flint, the agency currently serves clients in ten Mid-Michigan counties. With their ultimate goal of placing individuals in productive employment, Goodwill Industries has several Workforce Development programs, a retail division, and an e-commerce program. As a private, non-profit 501(c)(3) charity, the agency remains focused on their clients' future.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Goodwill Industries of Mid-Michigan for 80 years of successfully serving the community. The ten Mid-Michigan counties served by Goodwill Industries have benefited from the work, dedication and enthusiasm of their clients, staff, volunteers and supporters. I wish them the best and hope they continue their success for many, many years.

## REX THORNE TRIBUTE

**HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2011*

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rex Thorne of Huntington, Indiana. Mr. Thorne was a war hero, an incredibly successful engineer and community leader in a life that touched people all over the United States.

Following high school, Mr. Thorne enlisted in the U.S. Navy where he served on the USS *Heyliger* during World War II. Mr. Thorne's bravery and that of his fellow servicemen contributed to America's victory in the Pacific Theater.

After serving his country abroad, he returned to attend Purdue University. He graduated with a degree in chemical engineering and quickly joined the Union Camp paper company. During his tenure with the company, he advanced from working in the lab to his eventual position as Corporate Director for Environmental Affairs. His work took him across the country and gave others an opportunity to meet and work with him.

Mr. Thorne also lent much of his time to volunteer work for clubs, charities and non-profit organizations. He enjoyed fund raising and organizing events for many groups, most notably the Boy Scouts, the Safe Shelter Board and the Salvation Army. He was an active member of the Rotary Club Savannah West and the Skidaway Island United Methodist Church, where he taught Sunday School for several years.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize the life of Rex Thorne. From his service in World War II, his life as a businessman and his volunteer work, he had a profound impact on many people. There is no doubt that his legacy will continue to inspire others.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF  
STEPHEN PAVELKO ON HIS OFFER  
OF APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND  
THE UNITED STATES MILITARY  
ACADEMY**HON. ROBERT E. LATTA**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2011*

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding young man from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Stephen Pavelko of Perrysburg, Ohio, has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York.

Stephen brings an enormous amount of leadership, service and dedication to the incoming Class of 2015. While attending Perrysburg High School in Perrysburg, Ohio, Stephen earned honors in multiple fields of study, taking a number of advanced placement courses. Stephen was inducted into the National Honor Society, was involved in a number of athletic activities and held various leadership positions.

Throughout high school, Stephen participated in athletic activities, including football,

basketball and baseball. He earned a varsity letter in football. I am confident that Stephen will carry the lessons of his student and athletic leadership to West Point.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Stephen Pavelko on the acceptance of his appointment to the United States Military Academy in West Point where he will gain a world-class education and invaluable leadership experiences. I am positive that Stephen will excel during his career at West Point, and I ask my colleagues to join me in extending their best wishes to him as he begins his service to the nation.

#### ADA LAUNCHES JOBS-SOCIAL SECURITY-MINIMUM WAGE CAMPAIGN

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 15, 2011*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, Americans or Democratic Action has launched a Progressive agenda for jobs, rejuvenating the American economy, saving Social Security, and raising the minimum wage.

JOBS

Workers without jobs can't provide adequately for the basic needs of their families. The unemployment crisis is damaging families and contributing to a multitude of economic and social ills, including:

The highest poverty rate for working-age people between 18 and 64—12.9% in 2009—since 1965. Today, 43.6 million Americans are living in poverty, 19 million of whom are in deep poverty.

Workers who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own often cannot pay mortgages and rent, even when receiving unemployment benefits, which are not equivalent to wages lost. The foreclosure crisis—primarily the outcome of misdeeds of bankers and mortgage brokers—is driving further declines in home values while destroying once-vibrant neighborhoods. Joblessness also contributes to increased homelessness, which is not only tragic for families who lose their homes, but is accompanied by broader social harms and increased budget pressures on already strapped local and state governments.

Unemployed workers—along with many who are still employed—are losing employer-based health insurance coverage. In 2009, 50.7 million people were without health insurance—the highest number of uninsured since the Census started collecting the data in 1987. Joblessness is increasing pressure on public programs such as Medicaid, while increased use of uncovered emergency services by those with no other option for care is driving further increases in healthcare costs for small businesses and those still fortunate enough to have jobs and healthcare coverage.

Workers without jobs can't pay taxes that provide the resources to hire teachers, police and firefighters, build and maintain roads, provide for appropriate national security, ensure product safety, protect the environment, and fill urgent long- and short-term national needs.

We condemn the folly of deficit slashing while 15 million Americans remain unemployed—plus 11 million more who are underemployed or have dropped from the labor

force. Insufficient economic demand and idle productive capacity in the economy, in the short-term, bleeds federal and state budgets, whether or not current economic conditions meet the official definition of “recession.” Reckless spending (except perhaps for ill-conceived and poorly executed wars) is not the cause of our budget woes. This is made obvious as conservatives decry the deficit, but cannot or will not name any specific government program they would slash in order to meet their demands for deficit reduction.

Job creation—and the economic growth that spurs job creation—is the only way to reduce a budget deficit that is primarily the result of high unemployment. Unemployed workers represent idle productive capacity—lost wages and lost economic output. Lost wages reduce demand for goods, services, and investment, and depress tax receipts. Without consumers with money to spend, firms don't invest or hire, leading to more joblessness and still lower output. That leads to declining tax receipts along with growing demand for automatic stabilizers (such as unemployment benefits) and safety net services (such as Medicaid, food stamps, and housing assistance). Government deficits are inevitable in economic downturns with high unemployment.

Since firms will not hire or invest where demand is lacking, and unemployed workers cannot expand consumption and increase demand, only the government can spur growth—through deficit spending and investment. Tax cuts may be helpful, but in the current climate, direct spending and investment will more quickly and more strongly stimulate demand. Investing now in America's current and future prosperity is the remedy for both joblessness and the long-term budget deficit.

Conservatives argue that austerity will spur economic growth. That argument is based on evidence that fiscal austerity reduces interest rates (borrowing costs) for firms, and thus stimulates investment. But the evidence for this model does not mirror current conditions. Interest rates in the U.S. are already at historically low levels, yet firms are not investing or hiring. Moreover, few of the countries that experienced rapid growth while practicing fiscal austerity adopted austerity when the economy was operating far below its potential level of output, and in no case was a country as far below its potential as the U.S. is today.

Furthermore, all of the evidence that austerity fosters growth comes from countries with a much larger percentage of their economy involved in export industries than is the case with the U.S. Trade provides a source of demand for countries with a large export sector. The U.S. currently cannot rely on export-led growth to stimulate sufficient demand to reduce unemployment. For unemployment to be reduced in the short run, domestic demand must be increased. Thus, arguments for slashing government budgets in order to stimulate jobs and economic growth are not credible under current economic conditions.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) may have created or saved up to 3.3 million jobs and averted a second Great Depression, according to the independent Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates. But simple math shows that it was woefully insufficient to offset the loss of \$2.1 trillion in economic activity, \$3.4 trillion in lost home values, and \$7.4 trillion in lost stock values in 2009 and 2010. Not only was \$787 billion in

stimulus insufficient to offset the losses, it was also swamped by an estimated \$570 billion in spending cuts by state and local governments over the 2009–10 period.

Thus, the stimulus provided by ARRA and other measures amounted to only about \$126 billion per year for 2009 and 2010. The total effective stimulus was perhaps only 10% of the output lost.

By 2014, the CBO projects that total lost output will reach \$3.4 trillion—more than \$11,000 per person—assuming unemployment returns to normal levels by then. That figure will be worse if unemployment remains high. Additional and substantial economic stimulus that more realistically accounts for current economic realities is required, both to create jobs and to begin building the foundation for a prosperous future in which budget deficits can be reduced without causing economic contraction during a period of record unemployment.

The way to achieve a balanced federal budget is with a sound banking system and rational monetary policy; government investment (recognizing the difference between spending and investment); and full employment at decent wages and benefits.

We need jobs, and we have much work to do. A great nation can't remain great with crumbling bridges and schools, bursting water mains, leaking untreated sewage, grossly inadequate transportation systems, over-dependence on foreign oil, unaffordable higher education, and broadband preparedness that ranks 15th among OECD countries. ADA calls for restoring America's global competitive position with a restored manufacturing base, and rebuilt and expanded public infrastructure including broadband, throughout the nation.

A great nation consists of livable cities and towns that work for people, with decent affordable housing, quality public schools, well-designed and functioning public transportation systems, and jobs that provide decent wages. Cities cannot be warehouses for vast numbers of homeless and impoverished people who have no prospects and no hope.

A great nation will be at the forefront of addressing global problems that have resulted from past mistakes. Global warming, polluted water, and energy insecurity require investment in high-speed railroads and mass transit systems; emission-free vehicles and the infrastructure to power them; research, development, and construction of renewable energy sources, such as solar, wind, and waterpower.

America, with enforced fair labor standards and collective bargaining rights. To begin the process of restoring America's industrial-employment base, ADA calls for fair trade policies that promote economic activity and lift wages in all nations, including our own; reformed tax policies that reward companies for creating jobs here, rather than for shipping them overseas; and national and local purchasing goals that support American manufacturing.

For community restoration and further job growth, ADA calls for doubling funding for programs to employ youth—including high school dropouts, high school graduates, and college graduates. This includes expanding AmeriCorps, the Job Corps, and the Peace Corps, a renewed Civilian Conservation Corps to restore our national parks and forests, a Neighborhood Corps to protect, maintain and