

for youth and adults living in the Paso del Norte region, and congratulate the Coalition for recently marking 10 years of community collaboration.

**CENTER FOR MEDICARE
ADVOCACY'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY**

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Center for Medicare Advocacy's 25th anniversary and recognize their staff that has worked tirelessly on behalf of Medicare beneficiaries in Connecticut and around the country.

In 1986, the Center for Medicare Advocacy was founded in Mansfield, Connecticut by Judy Stein who has been a fierce advocate and leader for quality health care for Medicare beneficiaries. Over the past 25 years, Judy has transformed the Center into an unparalleled, national education and advocacy organization that supports Medicare beneficiaries. Today, the Center serves as an invaluable resource for our constituents and provides us with much needed, quality information on Medicare policies.

With a team of attorneys, nurses, legal assistants, and information management specialists, the Center for Medicare Advocacy works to provide assistance to seniors by simplifying Medicare policies and challenging the Medicare system to provide affordable quality health care with due process and rights of appeal. The Center offers consultations, training, and education to individuals and organizations in order to promote an affordable and fair Medicare system.

My colleagues and I owe Judy and the Center much gratitude for their vigilance of Medicare and the millions of beneficiaries it serves. It is my distinct pleasure to recognize their fine work and celebrate 25 years of service and many more to come.

**IN RECOGNITION OF ABRAHAM
BREEHEY, 1976–2011**

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I inform my colleagues that Abraham Breehey, Director of Legislative Affairs and Special Assistant to the International President of the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, passed away yesterday, Thursday, April 14, 2011 at INOVA Fairfax Hospital, in Falls Church, Virginia, from complications related to a brain tumor and subsequent stroke.

Abe, only 34 years old, was born in 1976 in Binghamton, New York. He is survived by his wife, Sonya and beloved young daughter, Abigail, his father Ray, his mother Carol, his sister Rachel, 3 nieces, a nephew and, of course, his dog Kesey.

His death is a tragedy for his family and a loss for the working men and women of America on whose behalf he was so deeply committed.

Abe received his Bachelor's Degree from Siena College in Loudonville, NY and Master's Degree in Public Policy from the Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy at the University of Albany. Prior to joining the Boilermakers in 2004, he served as Legislative Assistant for Representative LLOYD DOGGETT (TX–25).

Abe was a leading voice in the labor movement, representing the Boilermakers on issues related to energy policy and climate change, and their impact on workers. He was widely respected for his passion, intellect, and ability to build consensus across ideological and political lines.

Abe has testified in front of multiple U.S. Senate Committees and represented the Boilermakers in international negotiations regarding the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Abe also advised the AFL–CIO Building and Construction Trades Department as Chairman of the Department's Legislative Task Force.

And Abe is a graduate of the Trade Union Program at Harvard Law School.

A staunch advocate on behalf of every Boilermaker member, Abe was a colleague and a friend to each of us.

My thoughts and prayers are with the entire Breehey family. I hope they receive a small degree of comfort in knowing that Abe was so well liked and so well respected in his professional world.

**HONORING CERRITOS
COUNCILMEMBER LAURA LEE**

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Honorable Laura Lee for her 8 years of public service to the people of Cerritos, California.

Laura and her husband Charles have called Cerritos home since 1979 and raised their two talented children in the city. Prior to her election to the Cerritos City Council in 2003, Laura had been an active member of the community and served as a city planning commissioner from 1999 to 2001. As a testament to her leadership, the residents of Cerritos elected Laura to serve the maximum amount of terms, fulfilling the duties of Mayor once and Mayor Pro Tempore twice.

Throughout her tenure on the Cerritos City Council, Laura worked tirelessly with her fellow councilmembers to launch the city to new heights. During Laura's tenure on the city council, Cerritos experienced unmatched growth, including the addition of a fitness center at the city's Senior Center, the erection of a beautiful sculpture garden, and the construction of the Fountain Walk senior housing community.

Under 2008, with Laura's leadership, the City of Cerritos received the prestigious All-America City Award. Laura also worked to ensure Cerritos remains a place where small businesses thrive, helping the City to earn "Most Business-Friendly City in Los Angeles County" recognition by the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation.

Laura's passion for serving others extended well beyond her Council duties. She has

served as director of the American Red Cross Long Beach Chapter Board, advisor of the Su Casa Domestic Abuse Network, director general of the Southern California Chinese Women's League, and a steadfast volunteer at the Cerritos Senior Center. A real estate broker by trade, Laura has also led the Rancho Southeast Association of Realtors as president and served as chairwoman of the Equal Opportunity and Cultural Diversity Committee of the California Association of Realtors.

Perhaps Laura's most profound contribution to Cerritos is her immeasurable kindness and compassion. Her heart has always made certain her decisions at the City Council dais were generous as well as pragmatic. Her smile is ever present and exemplifies the city's vibrancy. It is with great pleasure that I commend Laura for her dedication to public service and leadership by example.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE
CHILDREN'S BUDGET ACT**

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, Forest Witcraft is reported to have said, "A hundred years from now it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove, but the world may be different because I was important in the life of a child." Children make up one-quarter of our population, and they form the foundation of our nation's future. Every parent hopes that their children will fare better than they did—achieve more, experience greater success, and realize the American Dream more fully. As policymakers, we have the ability and responsibility to provide a strong foundation for our youngest citizens to grow into the achievers and leaders of tomorrow.

Today, I introduce the Children's Budget Act. It is a bill that is simple in concept—require the President to provide a detailed account of all the Federal funding for children and children's programs. What funding do we actually spend on children? Are we properly addressing the national needs and problems confronting children? Accounting for Federal dollars in this way will help us understand how well we are making the health and well-being of our children a national priority.

Currently, even experienced policy analysts have a difficult time determining how much the government invests in children, and therefore how the needs of our children might better be addressed. A few independent groups—such as First Focus, the Brookings Institution, and the Urban Institute—have worked to understand the Federal investment in our children. It is only through their efforts that we have been able to comprehend how recent Federal funding choices have affected children. For example, the children's advocacy group First Focus recently commissioned a report by the Urban Institute to detail how Federal spending on children has changed over the past 45 years. The results of the Kids Share report were startling. In 1960, the children's share of Federal domestic spending—tax policies included—was 20.1 percent. In 2009, that share had declined to 14 percent—a 30.3 percent overall decline. Together, the Democratically-

controlled 111th Congress and the President substantially increased funding for children by \$25 billion. The President's FY11 Budget proposed important increases of \$6.2 billion in children's spending. In contrast, the Republican FY12 Budget proposal would eliminate all gains from the last several years. To illustrate, the Ryan Budget would create a \$150 billion funding gap in the Children's Health insurance program between 2014 and 2021, resulting in an 80 percent hole in the CHIP program and a loss of coverage for approximately 7 million children. Similarly, children bore 22 percent of the cuts in the second Continuing Resolution this year.

If children are a national priority, we need to measure our Federal spending so that we can understand if our choices disproportionately harm or protect our children. Without this analysis, policymakers and the public are limited in our ability to know how children fare in funding proposals. I strongly believe the Federal Government should embrace examining our Federal budget by our investment in children. Already, there are several State and local governments who produce a children's budget annually, including Louisiana, Ohio, the District of Columbia, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Oregon, and the Cities of Philadelphia and San Francisco. These budgets provide invaluable sources of information that help us understand whether we are meeting our goals for children. Precedent already exists for examining the Federal budget based on key areas of interest, including spending on programs related to homeland security, meteorology, climate, and drug control. By creating a children's budget at the Federal level, we can bring a renewed attention to children's issues and programs and guarantee a fair look at our national investment priorities.

A Children's Budget is critical now more than ever, with so many of our children and youth bearing the brunt of our Nation's economic hardship. In 2009, 20.7 percent of children and 23.8 percent of children under age 6 lived below the poverty line in our Nation. My Congressional District—the Seventh District of Illinois—had a staggering 35.5 percent poverty rate among children in 2009. These statistics reflect the need for a children's budget so that policymakers and voters understand whether our investments match the needs of our Nation's youngest citizens.

As our Nation continues to face difficult economic times, we should be able to answer the fundamental question "Is it good for the children?" The Children's Budget Act would ensure that children are given due consideration whenever the budget is discussed and would provide policymakers, program administrators, and parents with a clear picture of the overall Federal investment in our children. Careful analysis of our spending today helps us improve our efforts for tomorrow. The well-being of our children should be at the top of our national agenda. I hope my colleagues will join me in sponsoring this important legislation.

IN RECOGNITION OF MICHAEL P. MURPHY

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the retirement of Mike Murphy, the San Mateo County Counsel.

I had the great privilege to work with Mike when I was a member of the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors. He is an exceptional public servant, legal expert, human being and a dear friend.

Mike was born in Yokohama, Japan on November 17, 1948 as the son of a military family. He went to Pacific Grove High School from where he graduated in 1966. He then attended the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and graduated in 1970. He later served on the Military Academy Advisory Committee.

Mike laid the ground work for his legal career at Boalt Hall School of Law at UC Berkeley. He graduated in May of 1978 and just six months later was admitted to the California Bar.

In May of 1982, Mike started serving in the office of the San Mateo County District Attorney. In 1987, the civil division of the office became the San Mateo County Counsel where Mike continued to serve. He was appointed one of two Chief Deputies in 1998 and Assistant County Counsel in 2006. In 2007, he became Counsel until his retirement on March 18, 2011.

Mike served as the principal land use attorney for 22 years, a pressure cooker of a job that he made appear effortless. Among his highest achievements were the defense of the County's Local Coastal Program and Measure A, a coastal protection initiative and the defense of Measure T, authorizing the Devil's Slide tunnel bypass. During his entire career, Mike worked as a legal advisor on the San Bruno Mountain Habitat Conservation Plan, a landmark environmental document that he demonstrated his legal skill in drafting.

In 1988, Mike and San Mateo County celebrated a true David vs. Goliath victory. The Port of Oakland was about to dump 7 million tons of dredged spoils into the ocean off the San Mateo coast. The Half Moon Bay Fishermen's Marketing Association filed a lawsuit to stop the dumping but lost in federal court. Mike and his colleague Stephen Toben studied the case and filed a suit for injunctive and declaratory relief. It was their legal expertise and perseverance that resulted in a victory in front of the California State Court of Appeals.

While I was in the California Senate in 2003, Mike defended my financial privacy legislation and faced strong opposition from multinational conglomerates. Again, his outstanding legal acumen succeeded in protecting the rights of San Mateo County residents.

Mike has also been serving on the Military Academy Advisory Committee for the 12th Congressional District for many years, helping select the next generation of America's officers.

Mike is the loving husband of Gayle Murphy, his wife of 28 years, and the proud parent of their two daughters Erin and Shannon.

In his well deserved retirement, Mike will undoubtedly enjoy the additional time he will have to read and attend San Francisco Giants games.

Mr. Speaker, I ask this body to rise with me to honor an extraordinary man, Mike Murphy, for his dedication to public service and justice in San Mateo County.

CELEBRATION OF ANTIQUE TRACTOR PRESERVATION DAY

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the celebration of Antique Tractor Preservation Day in West Plains, Missouri. West Plains, Missouri represents a growing community that is creating a new tradition for tractor enthusiasts across the country.

Antique tractors and farm machinery serve as a reminder of a key part of our nation's agricultural heritage. Antique Tractor Preservation Day provides an opportunity to display these tractors in a venue where enthusiasts can share their stories with one another. Enthusiasts who share this common interest can share their passions for buying and restoring Antique Tractors.

Antique Tractor Preservation Day also provides others, who might not be enthusiasts, an opportunity to learn more about agricultural history and to better understand and appreciate the significant advancements American agriculture has made over the last century. It is important to carry on this legacy by preserving our antique tractors for generations into the future.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Michael Hinton and the West Plains community for their work in creating an opportunity for enthusiasts to come together and to celebrate this proud heritage and rich history.

TRASH REDUCTION ACT OF 2011

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 15, 2011

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, our 308 million American citizens throw away nearly 496 billion pounds of trash each year, a staggering amount by any analysis. And a sizable contribution is from disposable items, including plastic and paper bags. That's why today I am introducing the "Trash Reduction Act of 2011" along with my co-sponsor, Congresswoman ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON. We're asking for your support in moving this bill favorably through the House.

Just how bad is the problem? According to the U.S. EPA, the average American throws away about 4.4 pounds of trash each day or 1,600 pounds per year. That's nearly 248 million tons of American garbage each year. To put that in perspective, it's enough trash to fill a football-field-sized hole over 93 miles deep. Or create a similar-sized stack of garbage that reaches low earth orbit. This amount of trash could cover the state of Texas two and half times or fill enough trash trucks to form a line to the moon.

We consume an estimated 12 million barrels of oil and copious amounts of natural gas annually to make plastic bags that are used once