

at some point while traveling and can become frustrating to passengers who have no information as to when they will begin their travel. Now, airlines and airports would be required to have emergency contingency plans to take care of passengers who are involved in long uncomfortable tarmac delays. Passengers will no longer have to sit and wait on the tarmac wondering if they will ever move or be fed.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, and having served on its Aviation Subcommittee, I have worked tirelessly with my colleagues to secure passage of a clean FAA reauthorization bill. But I cannot support a reauthorization bill containing anti-labor provisions that undermine the rights of workers to bargain collectively over the terms and conditions of their employment. Regrettably, this bill does.

The bill contains statutory amendments to the Railway Labor Act which undermines 75 years of experience by the National Mediation Board's, NMB, in conducting representation elections in the air and rail industries. By removing the NMB's explicit statutory discretion in determining whether an election is mandated, this provision imposes new roadblocks for employees seeking union representation.

Another provision undermining the ability of employees to secure union representation is a proposed change in the way union run-off elections are handled. Under the proposed language, if Union A receives 40 percent of the votes and Union B receives 25 percent of the votes and the remaining 35 percent of the employees vote "no union," then the run-off will be between Union A and no union. This is true even though 65 percent of the employees indicated they wanted a union and soundly defeated the "no union" option.

Most problematic, however, is the provision in the bill relating to "showing of interest," requiring 50 percent of employees to sign up just to have an election. That is the same percentage of employees that would warrant union certification were the Employee Free Choice Act enacted into law.

This is the first time in history that Congress is legislating a showing of interest requirement in any federal labor law. Were this "showing of interest" provision to be applied in a merger setting, a larger employer that merges with a somewhat smaller airline will virtually guarantee there will be no unions on the merged property because where large numbers of employees are furloughed, it is virtually impossible for unions to meet the 50 percent threshold.

Taken together, these provisions constitute impose an intolerable burden on the ability of working men and women to bargain collectively over the terms and conditions of employment. I cannot support a legislative proposal that includes such provisions.

As one who born and raised in the House of Labor, educated in the School of Business, and who spent 14 years working in the corporate world, I stand ready to continue working with my colleagues, the Administration, industry and labor to develop and pass legislation that is beneficial and in the best interests of management, labor, government, and the public.

I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this bill and once again urge this House to come forth with a clean long-term FAA reauthorization that will not impede workers rights.

HONORING LIN BREHMER

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 6, 2012

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, on January 24, 2012, longtime radio host Lin Brehmer received honors recognizing his 20th anniversary on Chicago's 93.1 WXRT FM, as the station also celebrated its 40th anniversary on the air.

Chicago is a city of many treasures.

From the architecture to the museums and cultural institutions, from the sports teams to our food, there are many, many reasons to celebrate The Windy City.

But with so much to do, see, and eat, some of our city's finest features do not make it onto most tourists' To Do Lists. But if you want to share with a visitor some of the true heart and soul of Chicago, drive down Lake Shore Drive with the Lake on one side, our beautiful skyline on the other, and 93 WXRT on the radio.

I have tried to explain to my children about the vast wasteland that was music radio in Chicago before XRT. Forty years ago, all you had was the same ten songs on AM radio. Then came XRT, with a rich, diverse playlist. With a passion and integrity unmatched even today.

No coincidence it became a 24 hour station in 1976, demonstrating our city's unique commitment to independent thinking, and an unbridled celebration of art and music.

Like many others, XRT linked me to a new world.

XRT encouraged me to leave my sterile environment and travel to the Earl of Old Town to listen to Steve Goodman—and my first concert at The Aragon Ball Room to see Mott the Hoople, the New York Dolls. Not to mention other famous haunts that played host to greats like Iggy Pop, David Bowie, Muddy Waters, Frank Zappa, Roxy Music, and the like.

Thank you XRT, for 40 great years. You made me a better person.

So tell your kids to turn their FM radio dial to 93.1, WXRT; they will find Lin Brehmer, "Your best friend in the whole wide world."

Lin has been the morning voice on XRT for the last 20 years, and is a Chicago institution unto himself. For 20 years, Lin has been there with us to celebrate all things Chicago; from commiserating another Cubs loss, to suggesting the perfect restaurant for a post-concert dinner.

He shares with us the best of the city and makes sure we better understand the world, with "Lin's Bin." He helps us discover new sounds, rediscover old favorites, and provides an unparalleled soundtrack to our days.

A celebrated fixture in radio, Lin has received a variety of honors throughout his illustrious career. In 1990 he was also honored as "Music Director of the Decade" by Hard Report.

Lin's musical sensibilities are nicely summed up by his motto, borrowed from the writing of Gerard Manley Hopkins, "Flesh fade and mortal trash fall to the residuary worm, you and I might as well Rock and Roll."

Dubbed the "Reverend of Rock and Roll" early in his radio career, Lin sought to put together a radio program unlike any other. Now, more than 35 years since he first hosted a radio show in Albany, New York, Lin has succeeded in doing that, and so much more.

Radio isn't Lin's only passion; he is also quite the accomplished Foodie, never going anywhere without a Zagat guide in his car and his self-described "eating pants," an outfit with enough "give" to accommodate another Chicago meal at the Weiner's Circle.

His favorite restaurants in Chicago include a wide variety of cuisine, for an even broader array of occasions. His recommendations have included "Best Upscale Mexican For When You Want To Leave The Kids At Home" or the very specific "Best Late Night Steak Burrito."

I'm sure he also enjoys splitting a cinnamon roll with our friend and his colleague Teri Hemmert, another Chicago jewel, at her favorite table at Ann Sather's Restaurant on the northside.

Lin Brehmer is a man who helps us to discover the best about Chicago, and in doing so, has become a Chicago treasure himself.

We appreciate and applaud his career as one of our city's finest radio personalities and most recognizable voices, and look forward to the music, experiences, and food he will help us discover in his next twenty years.

Thank you, Lin, for always reminding us why "It's great to be alive."

CELEBRATING DAVID MARVIN BLUMBERG'S 60TH BIRTHDAY

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 6, 2012

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the celebration of David Marvin Blumberg's 60th birthday.

David was born on December 26, 1951 in Jacksonville, Florida. He is the fourth of five children born to Marvin Bernard and Mary Louise Blumberg. David obtained his Masters Degree of Public Administration in 1994 from the University of North Florida.

He was honorably discharged from his service in the USAF in 1974 after having worked as an instrument mechanic on the Minute Man 1, 2, and 3 missiles at Vandenberg AFB, CA.

David worked alongside his father at Marvin Blumberg and Sons from 1974–1982. He was certified as an FAA Air Traffic Controller and worked in that capacity from 1982–2006.

Presently he is serving as an Air Traffic Safety Risk Management Facilitator and Instructor nationwide.

David is the proud father of Lauren, Will, Olivia, Nathan and Natalie. He has one grandchild, Walker Brooks Haas.

David plays the drums in a band comprised of other Air Traffic Controllers who raise money for charities and to date they have raised over \$650,000 for local and national charities.

David will be moving to Fort Worth, Texas to supplement the Federal Aviation Administration's Safety Risk Management staff.

His band Aire Traffic will be playing future benefit concerts to raise money for the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation and for the Joseph Sam's School for Special Needs Children in Fayetteville, GA.

Please join me in wishing David Blumberg a very happy 60th birthday.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. MICHAEL
RYAN

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 6, 2012

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Michael Ryan of East Keansburg, New Jersey. Mr. Ryan will be honored as the 2012 Hibernian of the Year by the Ancient Order of Hibernians Volunteer Patrick Torphy Division 2 of Monmouth County. This prestigious honor is well-deserved in light of his tremendous contributions to the Irish American community. Mr. Ryan is known to his AOH brothers as someone who will always be there to support his community and those who are in need, and his charitable actions are undoubtedly worthy of this body's recognition.

Mr. Mike Ryan was born in Newark, New Jersey to Dick and Nancy Ryan. Together, the Ryan family moved to East Keansburg, New Jersey in 1955 and have continued to serve the residents of the Monmouth County community. Mr. Ryan joined the Ancient Order of Hibernians Volunteer Patrick Torphy Division 2 of Monmouth County in 1998, where he serves as the Division Marshall. Mr. Ryan serves as a core member of the organizing committee for the annual Irish Festival at the Jersey Shore. In upholding the AOH motto of friendship, unity, and Christian charity, Mr. Ryan tirelessly assists in raising funds for a multitude of causes, including Catholic school education, local food pantries and shelters, and the Wounded Warrior Program.

Mr. Ryan is also a proud member of the Knights of Columbus Council #2858. He is a graduate of Saint Catherine's School and a member of the Middletown High School class of 1974. Mr. Ryan is a 25-year employee of the United States Postal Service and currently resides in East Keansburg, New Jersey with his wife, Christina, and their three sons, Sean, Danny and Matthew.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in congratulating Mr. Michael Ryan upon receiving the 2012 Hibernian of the Year award and thanking him for his service to the Irish American community.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR GREG DASH

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 6, 2012

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my constituent, Major Greg Dash, for his distinguished service to our country as a member of the United States Air Force.

Major Dash, known to his fellow airmen as "Fez," was raised in Gaithersburg, Maryland. After graduating from Wootton High School, he received an appointment to the United States Air Force Academy, where he earned a degree in Electrical Engineering and graduated on the Commandant's List. He was commissioned in May 1998. After having served his country for 18 years, Major Dash will be medically retired this month.

Throughout his service in the Air Force, Dash excelled in both his tactical judgment

and outstanding leadership capabilities. As an Air Battle Manager, he qualified in three separate weapons systems and was selected for graduation from the distinguished United States Weapons School. Major Dash earned a number of awards and decorations, including the 2012 Air Traffic Control Association Earl F. Ward Medallion.

Over the course of his career, Major Dash had several combat deployments. During his last deployment in Afghanistan, he collapsed and was medically evacuated from the country. Later, he was diagnosed with a rare and highly lethal form of cancer. But he was undeterred.

After a 1½-year-long battle with cancer, Major Dash has heroically defeated the disease with the same spirit and determination he brought to his years of military service. Although his cancer has cut short his Air Force career, his talents, personal qualities, record and achievements bode well for great accomplishments in the future. I know that he will continue to make our Nation proud.

Our country owes Major Dash a debt of gratitude for his service, impeccable character and model of selfless leadership. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing him and in thanking him for his service and sacrifice.

RECOGNIZING THE UCI PARA-CYCLING TRACK WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS AT THE HOME DEPOT CENTER IN CARSON, CALIFORNIA

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 6, 2012

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss a particularly exciting event that will be held this weekend in my district. On February 10th–12th, The UCI Para-cycling Track World Championships will take place at the Home Depot Center Velodrome in Carson, California. The competition will welcome 230 athletes from 30 countries, including United States athletes: Allison Jones, Greta Neimanas, Clark Rachfal, Jennifer Schuble, Aaron Trent and California's very own, Anthony Zahn.

The UCI Para-cycling Track World Championships are the world championships for track cycling and is open to male and female athletes with physical disabilities such as amputation, visual impairment, spinal cord injury, wheelchair-users and cerebral palsy.

The UCI Para-cycling Track World Championships serves as the final qualifying event for U.S. athletes to be nominated to the 2012 U.S. Paralympic Cycling Team which will compete at the 2012 Paralympic Games in London this summer.

Mr. Speaker, the Paralympics are a major international multi-sport event, similar to the Olympics, for athletes with physical disabilities. Over 4,000 athletes from 146 countries compete in the games, which run in parallel with the Winter and Summer Olympic Games. The goal of the Paralympics is to empower persons with disabilities through sport.

Since its creation, the Paralympic games have been inspiring those with physical handicaps to realize their potential and strive to achieve their dreams. The Paralympics are making a difference in the lives of thousands

of physically disabled people every day by focusing on participants' athletic achievements and ability rather than their limitations.

Mr. Speaker, I have always been a big supporter of the Paralympics and their goals and that is why I am pleased that this year, the UCI Para-cycling Track World Championships will be held at the Home Depot Center in the 37th Congressional District. This marks the first time that the Home Depot Center will host a Paralympic event in its facility's history and just the second time ever, that the UCI Para-cycling Track World Championships will be held in the United States.

The Home Depot Center, home of Major League Soccer's Los Angeles Galaxy and Chivas USA, is designated as an "Official U.S. Olympic Training Site," and is the first and only permanent indoor track of international standard in North America. It is a state-of-the-art facility that has brought much attention and prestige to my district.

In March 2011, I was able to join U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano in support of the "See Something, Say Something" campaign, which has since expanded to include The Home Depot Center. The campaign raises public awareness of indicators of terrorism and violent crime and encourages average citizens to identify and report indicators of terrorism, crime and other threats to the proper transportation and law enforcement authorities.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud that my district is able to host such an extraordinary event that continues to empower people with disabilities and in the process, inspire people around the world. I am sure that the people of California will embrace the spirit of the Games and will cheer on the athletes as they compete for the Paralympic games this summer.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 6, 2012

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, our 40th president, Ronald Wilson Reagan, was born on this date in 1911, making him 101 years old today. On President Reagan's 98th birthday, 17 days after President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,717,280,371,345.89.

Today, it is \$15,335,108,283,338.57. We've added \$4,617,827,911,992.68 to our debt in 3 years. This is \$4.5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

A TRIBUTE TO ANNE MARQUESS GARROTT

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 6, 2012

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Anne Marquess Garrott and the Southwest Belmont Community Association.

The Southwest Belmont Community Association, SWBCA, was a result of the Colored