

Monday, December 1, 2014, Captain DuBois took off from a U.S. Coalition air base for a combat mission in Operation Inherent Resolve, when his F-16 aircraft began to experience mechanical problems. Captain DuBois attempted to return to the air base and was unable to eject before his airplane crashed.

Captain DuBois was only 30 years old and recently married to his wife Ashley (Jones) DuBois. According to those who knew him, there was rarely a moment when he didn't have a smile on his face, and his selfless and encouraging personality was contagious to anyone who had the pleasure of meeting him. The numbers of lives touched by this courageous young man are innumerable and the love and memories he shared with his friends and family will live on through them.

The death of Captain DuBois is an unfortunate reminder of the dangers our service men and women face every day as they defend our country, as well as of the many sacrifices they make to protect our freedoms and way of life. Captain DuBois served his country with great pride and honor, doing what he had dreamed of since he was a boy. He will be greatly missed by his family, friends and squadron.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Captain William H. DuBois. His dedication to our country, and the way he selflessly lived his life, serve as an inspiration to a grateful nation, as well as to the State of Colorado.

RECOGNIZING ROMANIA'S GREAT UNION DAY AND ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, as President of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Parliamentary Assembly and co-Chairman Congressional Romania Caucus, I congratulate Romania on its Great Union Day, celebrating the anniversary of its unification on December 1, 1918, and its 25th anniversary of independence following the fall of communism.

Romania is a stalwart U.S. and NATO ally. Romania and the United States work closely together to confront a host of global challenges, including through our joint efforts to bolster regional defense, halt nuclear proliferation, and increase energy security. For example, the Permanent Forward Operating Site at Mihail Kogalniceanu Air Base not only enables a vital U.S. forward presence in the region, but also provides essential opportunities for joint training with NATO allies. With the signing of the U.S.-Romania Ballistic Missile Defense Agreement in September 2011, Romania established itself as a key strategic partner in NATO's emerging missile defense capabilities effort. The Missile Defense Interceptor site at Deveselu Air Base near the Bulgarian border will provide missile defense protection to our allies in Europe and the Middle East.

Tragically, ongoing events in Ukraine are unsettling the region and testing the transatlantic alliance. As you know, Russia seeks to once again destabilize much of Eastern Europe and restore influence over territories lost

following the collapse of the Soviet Union. That is why it is critically important for the United States, Romania, and other European allies to continue to work together to strengthen the transatlantic alliance and bolster regional security.

The strategic partnership between the United States and Romania has greatly advanced our common interests in promoting transatlantic and regional security and free market opportunities, and should continue to foster greater economic and cultural exchanges, trade and investment, and social contacts.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in celebrating Romania's Great Union Day and its 25th anniversary of independence since the fall of communism.

HONORING ROBERTS TREE FARM

HON. TODD C. YOUNG

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Mr. YOUNG of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, Indiana's economic engine is driven by Hoosier innovation and entrepreneurship. Our state's small businesses are a source of pride for towns and cities across the state for the high quality goods and services they provide and the jobs they support. One such small business is the Roberts Tree Farm.

Each year, Americans look forward to Christmastime as a season that brings back memories of family and long-held traditions, as well as offering the promise of creating new memories with our loved ones. The look and smell of a freshly-cut pine tree is something I and others will always associate with the holiday season. Every year, hundreds of families around the state rely on Roberts Tree Farm of Seymour, Indiana to help keep these traditions alive.

Located on 25 acres owned by the same family since 1852, Roberts Tree Farm has been in operation for four decades. Working out of an authentic log cabin that originally housed Roberts Grocery Store, Jerry and Libby Roberts offer services that keep customers coming back year after year.

Jerry oversees the planting and maintenance of thousands of trees throughout the year, taking special care to ensure that they grow to become full and healthy. During the farm's business hours on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays starting in late November, the Roberts provide much more than just rows of mature trees to choose from. Customers are driven around the grounds on a wagon, provided help in cutting and loading their favorite tree, and even get to enjoy Libby's homemade cookies along with a cup of hot chocolate or apple cider.

Family-owned small businesses are the backbone of Indiana's economy. However, Roberts Tree Farm is about more than just dollars-and-cents: They have helped make the holidays special for one generation after another. I wish the Roberts family—along with all the other holiday themed Hoosier small businesses—all the best, and most importantly, a Merry Christmas!

LESLEY DAHLKEMPER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Lesley Dahlkemper for her outstanding service to education and our community.

As the current Vice President of Strategic Engagement and Communications for the Colorado Education Initiative, Lesley has an exemplary passion for public education and has made a huge impact in her field. Her experience spans from the Jefferson County Board of Education to award-winning national reporting for National Public Radio. Lesley brings her experience in public policy, politics and journalism to support the Jefferson County community.

Outside of her professional experience, she provides her time to many non-profits including the Action Center, CASA of Jefferson and Gilpin Counties and Colorado I Have A Dream Foundation. Lesley's leadership has impacted Jefferson County for the better.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Lesley Dahlkemper for her well-deserved honor by the West Chamber serving Jefferson County. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all her future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING JIM ADAMS

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and career of Jim Adams. Mr. Adams serves as the Orange County Council Representative for the Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council. A longtime resident of Anaheim, Mr. Adams has worked tirelessly to increase work opportunities for local union members. He has represented the Council in negotiations with corporate entities, local governments, schools and college boards, and politicians to ensure workers and their families have a shot at achieving the American dream.

Originally from Cameron, Oklahoma, Mr. Adams came to Los Angeles on a Greyhound bus in 1959 and entered the floor covering trade. He joined Local 1247 in 1962 and was initiated in 1963. Since then, Mr. Adams has worked hard to help the Trades turn jobs and keep a prevailing wage.

After 50 years as a loyal union member, Mr. Adams is set to retire at the end of this year. His retirement is a great loss to the community and the California Trades. I thank him for his service to my constituents and my union colleagues and wish him and his family the best as he enters this new chapter in his life.

HISTORICAL RECORD OF
FALEOMAVAEGA'S RESPONSE TO
CLOSURE OF SAMOA PACKING IN
AMERICAN SAMOA

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to include, for historical purposes, information on the closure of Samoa Packing in American Samoa.

[Press Release, May 7, 2009]

**FALEOMAVAEGA INFORMS GOVERNOR THAT
MINIMUM WAGE IS NOT THE REASON FOR
SAMOA PACKING RELOCATING TO GEORGIA**

Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that, in a letter dated May 7, 2009 and in response to Governor Togiola's letter of May 1, he has informed the Governor that minimum wage is not the reason for Samoa Packing relocating to Georgia. The full text of the Congressman's letter, which was copied to the President and Senators, and the Speaker and Representatives, is included below.

"Dear Governor Togiola:

I am writing in response to the recent announcement by Chicken of the Sea/Samoan Packing that it will close operations in American Samoa effective September of this year. I am also writing in response to your letter of May 1, 2009. Enclosed for your information is a copy of my letter of May 7 to Senator Daniel K. Inouye, Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, which explains my position regarding the plant's closure, and my request for his assistance.

While you have suggested that the cannery is leaving due to minimum wage increases, the company has made it clear that minimum wage is only one of many reasons that influenced its decision and, frankly speaking, I believe minimum wage was the least of its reasons, especially considering that the company is relocating to Lyons, Georgia where effective July 24, 2009, minimum wage rates are \$7.25 per hour, compared to American Samoa's current rate of \$4.26 and American Samoa's projected rate of \$4.76 per hour effective July 2009.

That Chicken of the Sea would relocate and immediately pay workers in Georgia double the money is not fair to our Samoan workers who spent the last 50 years making Chicken of the Sea one of the most profitable brands of canned tuna in America. It is also not fair that our cannery workers have been paid way below the national average when the vast majority of ASG workers have salaries comparable to national minimum wage standards.

If it is possible to increase salaries of departments by as much as \$10,000, why would ASG leaders not support an increase of 50-cents per hour for private sector tuna cannery workers? Regardless of what your position is about the poorest among us, now is not the time to be pointing fingers. We need to work together to find a solution, and my office has already had discussions with the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL).

Enclosed for your information is a point of contact to assist you with ASG's application for national emergency funds to provide job training for our workers. According to the DOL, the request for this assistance must be made by you, and must originate from the Governor's office. Your staff may contact Adri Jayaratne at jayaratne.adri@dol.gov for further information on how to apply for a national emergency grant. This information may also be accessed at <http://www.dolleta.gov/neg/eligibility.cfm>.

I will send a letter of support to the U.S. Secretary of Labor prior to the submission of ASG's application.

However, before any action can be taken by Congress or the DOL, I have been informed that ASG will need to provide the DOL and Congress with documentation showing the legal status of our cannery workers. Samoa Packing's current workforce consists of 2,172 active employees of which 274, or 13%, are American Samoans, 87%, or 1,821 workers are Western Samoans, and 3.5%, or 77 employees, are other foreign nationals. The total payroll for all workers for the cannery including benefits annually is approximately \$22-\$23 million.

I have been informed that ASG will have to certify the legal status of our workers at Chicken of the Sea/Samoan Packing before we can expect federal assistance. Even though most of our tuna cannery workers are from Western Samoa, many of them are married to U.S. nationals and U.S. citizens and, for purposes of helping these families, I am hopeful that you will send me the necessary immigration documentation showing that these workers do have legal status so that we may move forward with assisting them.

I am also hopeful that ASG will inform my office of what kind of trust fund is in place for our local workers in the case of unemployment. As you know, after all these years, ASG has chosen not to participate in the federal Unemployment Insurance (UI) program. Under terms of the UI program, when eligible workers lose their jobs, the UI program may provide them with income support for 6 months based on certain calculations. These unemployment benefits are paid out of a federal trust fund. However, the money for the trust fund comes from taxes States impose on employers.

The State of Hawaii, for example, has protected its workers by taxing employers like Hawaiian Air. The State of Hawaii then sends a portion of those taxes to the federal government to hold in trust for workers who may become unemployed should Hawaiian Air lay off some of its workers. Once a worker is laid off, that worker can apply for unemployment benefits and the federal government will send that worker a check from the trust fund.

When workers in American Samoa get laid off, they are not eligible for UI benefits because ASG has not sent any money to the federal government to hold in trust for our local workers. Since ASG chose not to have the federal government hold money in trust, I am hopeful that ASG has held those funds in trust at the local level from the taxes it has collected from StarKist and Chicken of the Sea so that our workers can seek immediate relief and unemployment checks come September. In the case of layoffs or closures, unemployment compensation should have been at the heart of ASG's lease agreements with the canneries.

If ASG has no local trust fund in place, I would hope that ASG would support my efforts to bring ASG under the federal umbrella. My office has contacted the House Ways and Means Committee and I have every intention of working closely with Chairman Charles Rangel to devise a program that will require ASG to set aside a portion of the taxes it collects either in a local or federal trust fund so that future workers will be protected in the case of layoffs or plant closures. Like every American, our workers deserve protection, and they are entitled to peace of mind in knowing that their local government reserved a portion of taxes for them, in case of their unemployment. Every State plus Puerto Rico, DC, and the Virgin Islands provide their workers with this kind of safety net, and Guam established a modi-

fied program. It is time for ASG to follow suit, if it has not done so already.

While I am seeking a \$20 million emergency set aside in the supplemental appropriations bill, and while I will also ask to increase operations and CIP funding for ASG, I am not sure how successful federal efforts might be, especially given our tuna canneries were recently provided with a \$33 million federal income tax break at a time when the United States is faced with an unprecedented financial crisis. Prior to this extension, each cannery received over \$5 million per year in federal tax breaks for almost 20 years, which equates to well over \$200 million, not to mention the tax breaks they got for the 20 or so years preceding this.

Also, in 1999, at cost of \$600,000 from the U.S. Congress, a U.S. Department of the Interior Secretarial Commission was established to examine American Samoa's economic condition and make recommendations to ASG and the Department of the Interior on how to diversify and expand American Samoa's economy. This was the first time in American Samoa's 100-year relationship with the United States that a Secretarial Commission was established.

This Secretarial Commission was supported by Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush, chaired by the former Governor of Hawaii John Waihee, and administered by the U.S. Department of the Interior. You served as a commission member. I served as an ex officio member.

In conjunction with the people of American Samoa, the Commission, over about a two-year time period, developed an economic plan which offered specific recommendations on how to diversify the Territory's local economy based on the will of the people. In fact, over 8,000 people were surveyed at the request of the Commission by the American Samoa Community College. In April 2002, the Secretarial Commission issued its final report. To date, the U.S. Department of the Interior has failed to move forward on this plan and I must say our local government officials also have not acted.

I will continue to update you regarding my efforts at the federal level, and I look forward to working with you and the Fono to discuss possible options and new steps forward.

The Congressman concluded his letter by stating, "Next week, I will be meeting with Bumble Bee's top executive, Mr. Chris Lischewski, and I will keep you apprised of his insights and interests in American Samoa. Until then, I continue to wish you the very best."

[Press Release, June 19, 2009]

**FALEOMAVAEGA CALLS FOR COOPERATION NOT
CONFRONTATION**

Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that he is calling for cooperation not confrontation in response to Samoa Packing's closing.

"At a time when our Territory is faced with the challenges caused by the collapse of the global economy which has also impacted our local businesses, including Samoa Packing, I believe it is very important for our leaders to pull together and do what is right for our people, rather than waste time engaged in personal attacks. For this reason, I will not respond to the negative comments being made on radio and in the press, but I will continue to provide information which is important for the public to know."

"First and foremost, since the day Chicken of the Sea announced it would be closing its operations, my office has been aggressively working to find solutions at the federal level that would complement local efforts. In fact, it was my office, not ASG, that first contacted the U.S. Department of Labor on behalf of our cannery workers to make sure