

# REVITALIZING CITIES AND TOWNS BY BRINGING BUSINESS BACK

## HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 30, 2010*

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, today I introduce a bill to help our commercial neighborhoods to recover the economic activity they have lost during the Great Recession. When the economy tumbled and unemployment rose to the highest level seen in a generation, businesses were forced to close their doors, transforming once-thriving commercial streets into quiet avenues with "For Rent" signs.

My bill encourages private investors to develop land and vacant properties that have had no substantial economic activity for at least two years by exempting them from taxes for up to ten years.

Proper tax incentives can ignite an economic renaissance in our cities and towns by nurturing private investment and enterprise. This is the best government stimulus I know.

# CONGRATULATING THE JEFFERSON DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF FLUSHING ON THEIR 100TH ANNI- VERSARY

## HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 30, 2010*

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the Jefferson Democratic Club of Flushing, Inc. Representing Part A of the 26th Assembly District of New York, the Jefferson Democratic Club has fiercely and tirelessly advocated on every level for the interests of the Queens and greater New York City communities.

Speaker Tip O'Neil once observed that "all politics is local." Organizations like the Jefferson Democratic Club are local politics' driving force. Without the hard work, enthusiasm, and dedication of the men and women of political organizations like the Jefferson Democratic Club, the gears of our democracy would grind to a halt.

Founded on June 14th, 1910 during the Republican Administration of William Howard Taft, the Jefferson Dems have been championing democratic values at the grassroots level for generations. Serving the areas of Auburndale, Bay Terrace, Bayside, Douglaston, Floral Park, Flushing, Little Neck, New Hyde Park, North Shore Towers, and Whitestone, they are a staple of the community and an invaluable asset to the people they represent. In recent years, the Club has participated in annual gift drives benefiting hospitalized war veterans; toy and clothing drives to assist hospitalized and needy children and the children of troops currently serving overseas; and many other important community programs.

I am proud to recognize such a prestigious organization and congratulate current District Leaders Joseph Bechtold and Ann-Margaret Carrozza; incoming District Leaders, Michael Sais and Carol Gresser; President, David Fisher; and all the members of the Jefferson Democratic Club of Flushing for their one hun-

dred years of service to the people of Queens County, New York City, and New York State. I hope to see the good work continue for one hundred more. I ask that my colleagues in the House to join me and rise in recognition of the Jefferson Democratic Club of Flushing's centennial anniversary.

# HONORING THE MEMORY OF CEIL STEINBERG

## HON. RON KLEIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 30, 2010*

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, we rise today to honor the life and memory of an extraordinary member of our South Florida community.

Ceil Steinberg passed away this week at the age of 82, leaving behind a legacy of service and strength.

Throughout Ceil's remarkable life, she maintained a steadfast commitment to serving our Nation's veterans. She served as President of the Ladies National Auxiliary of the Jewish War Veterans, and continued to be active in our local veterans community into her 80s.

Ceil's two wonderful daughters, Circuit Court Judge Debra Nelson and her sister Anita Kahn, who has taught in South Florida public schools for over 30 years, blessed their mom with 4 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren, who Ceil adored.

When we think of public service, we think of Ceil, and her determination to give back, especially to those who have served our Nation in uniform.

We want to express our deep personal condolences to all of Ceil's family, and her beloved partner Bill Kling, who is also a fixture in our local veterans' community.

We will miss seeing Ceil, but the light of her legacy will continue to burn brightly well into the future.

# JAMES ZADROGA 9/11 HEALTH AND COMPENSATION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

## HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 29, 2010*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for H.R. 847, the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act of 2009, which amends the Public Health Service Act to extend and improve protections and services to individuals directly impacted by the terrorist attack in New York City on September 11, 2001. The effects of H.R. 847 will be twofold: it will mandate funding to establish the World Trade Center Health Programs, and it will reopen the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund. Both provisions are necessary to sufficiently care for the health and economic welfare of the Americans who were victims of the September 11 attacks and who responded in the aftermath of the attacks. This act guarantees America's heroes—who have sacrificed so much for our country—the medical and financial support they deserve.

As we approach the ninth anniversary of the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center (WTC), it is especially important that Congress remember that there are survivors of and responders to the attacks who continue to suffer today. These victims may experience a long-term negative impact on their health many years into the future. For the first seven years after September 11, the Bush administration failed to respond adequately to the medical emergency caused by dangerous airborne toxins at Ground Zero. Americans from every state and every walk of life have been affected by those toxins, and over 71,000 people have enrolled in the WTC Health Registry because of their condition. Toxin-related illnesses include respiratory, gastrointestinal, and mental-health disease. Additionally, these illnesses have caused financial loss for many survivors and responders, 11,000 of whom have sued the City of New York because they have no viable alternative for receiving compensation. H.R. 847 will deal thoroughly and effectively with each of these problems.

Title I of H.R. 847 provides mandatory funding for the establishment of the World Trade Center Health Programs. These programs will provide consistent and readily available medical treatment for the September 11 survivors and those who responded in the aftermath of the attacks, many of whom suffer egregiously from the airborne toxins present at Ground Zero. H.R. 847 will also strengthen the medical monitoring and treatment programs and other social services programs for survivors already in place at the Clinical Centers of Excellence in New York City. Title I goes on to establish a WTC National Responder Program, which will give eligible survivors and responders who live outside of the New York City metro area access to a nationwide network of healthcare providers associated with the 9/11 Health and Compensation Act. Additionally, Title I provides for research into health problems related to the September 11 attacks, so that legislators, doctors, survivors, and responders can be better informed about the nature of these conditions.

Title II of H.R. 847 will reopen the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund (VCF), which closed in 2003, until 2031. The original deadline prevented survivors and responders who did not file a claim before the deadline, or who became ill after the deadline, to receive compensation for losses sustained as a result of the attacks. Reopening the fund will not change eligibility standards for compensation; rather, doing so will ensure that anyone eligible for compensation at any point receives the best care and support possible. The newly reopened VCF will also allow for the offsetting of over 11,000 lawsuits filed by survivors and responders suffering from the effects of WTC toxins.

Title III of the bill ensures that its \$7.7 billion cost is fully paid for by preventing a form of tax evasion called "treaty shopping." This makes the bill pay-as-you-go neutral, and thus amenable to Congress' goals of intelligent spending and fiscal responsibility.

The attacks on the World Trade Center irrevocably changed the lives of all Americans. As a result, we see the world from a markedly different perspective, and we have entered two expensive and bloody wars. The number of lives lost in Iraq and Afghanistan, added to the toll taken by the attacks themselves, is a devastating tragedy. But, with the passage of