

Employees are able to use their accrued comp time at any time, so long as its use does not unduly disrupt the operations of the business—this is the same standard used in the public sector and under the Family and Medical Leave Act. Employers also would be prohibited from requiring employees to take accrued time solely at the convenience of the employer.

Again, I want to reiterate that this legislation has no effect on the traditional 40-hour workweek or the way in which overtime is calculated.

Mr. Speaker, comp time makes for good policy and it also has another benefit—it makes employees happy. There always will be working men and women who want and need the extra pay that comes from working overtime hours. But for many workers, having the additional time off is a far more attractive option, and that's an option they should have.

Comp time also is good for business because smart companies know how flexibility can help efforts to recruit and retain top-notch employees. Concerns over the well-being of the family often force parents to leave jobs that do not fit their family needs or forego jobs that would put stress on home lives.

In sum, Mr. Speaker, The Family Time Flexibility Act is good for workers, it is good for women, and it is especially good for families. The bill updates an outdated law designed for the 1930s workplace and makes it relevant for today's workforce.

Today's working men and women want increased flexibility and choices regarding scheduling and compensation, yet federal law prevents them from having such options. I trust my colleagues agree that employees and employers should not be prevented from making mutually agreeable arrangements that meet both personal and business needs.

I think the time and circumstances are right for us to pass this much-needed legislation. I urge my colleagues to join this effort to pass a strong "family time" bill that will be good for workers, businesses, the economy, and America's families.

In closing, let me take a moment to recognize Congressman CASS BALLENGER for his dedicated and untiring work on the comp time issue and to the Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, Representative CHARLIE NORWOOD, for his strong commitment to this issue. Finally, let me thank the Chairman of the full Committee on Education and the Workforce, JOHN BOEHNER, for his support of America's working men and women.

I urge my colleagues to join us in cosponsoring the Family Time Flexibility Act.

COMMENDING MEMBERS OF  
UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES  
AND THEIR FAMILIES FOR SELF-  
LESS SERVICE DURING GLOBAL-  
WAR ON TERRORISM

SPEECH OF

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 5, 2003*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. J. Res 27. It is a privilege to take a few minutes to pay tribute

to the men and women responsible for our national defense.

More than 1.4 million men and women make up America's active and reserve forces. I join my colleagues on both sides of the aisle in acknowledging the soldiers and sailors, airmen and marines in both the active and reserve components, who distinguish themselves daily in selfless service to this nation and bring great pride to us all.

Last month, I had an opportunity to recognize the accomplishments of nineteen members of our armed forces. In observance of African American history month, I chose to acknowledge African Americans who have served with distinction in the U.S. Armed Forces. Each day of the month, I distributed brief biographies to my colleagues, which honored the accomplishments of generals and privates, paratroopers, cooks, and nurses, who have contributed to our rich history. Many fought for freedoms they did not fully enjoy themselves.

It was interesting to learn that despite a diversity of ethnicity and culture, today's military men and women are not very different from the doughboys that fought in World War I, or the GIs who stormed the beaches in Normandy, or the troops who fought in Korea and Vietnam. From generation to generation, they continue to embody the qualities we respect in all walks of life and in all fields of endeavor; a commitment to excellence, a vision of a better future, and a dedication to selfless service.

It is both fitting and timely that we commend the members of the United States Armed Services today. However, I'd like to add two things to this tribute. First, I'd like to acknowledge our nation's military veterans. Their sacrifices have helped make America the world's best hope for freedom and lasting peace. And second, I'd like to acknowledge the families of those who serve our nation. It is a sacrifice to send your son or daughter, your husband or wife, into harms way. Your contribution to our nation's freedom is deeply appreciated.

TARIFF RELIEF

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 6, 2003*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, on the one-year anniversary of the President's decision to impose temporary tariff relief on behalf of the domestic steel industry under Section 201 of the Trade Act, I speak in strong support of the tariffs and their continuation for the full three-year period ordered by the President.

Between 1997 and 2002, America's steel industry was under attack by foreign companies illegally dumping steel into the American economy, sending 35 steel companies into bankruptcy and costing 54,000 industry employees their jobs.

After a seven-month analysis, the International Trade Commission made a unanimous determination that the steel industry had suffered serious injury as a result of the surge of imports and voted to recommend a remedy.

One year later, this remedy is working and must be continued. Since the Section 201 relief was implemented, the industry is beginning to see signs of a recovery: domestic producers have experienced incremental improve-

ments in revenues, operating income, and capacity utilization.

The tariffs have also caused a modest price recovery in the industry. Prices for hot rolled steel rose from historic lows of only \$210 per ton in December 2001 to around \$300 per ton today. But even so, prices for all major flat rolled products are still below 20-year historical averages.

Additionally, the industry has made significant progress toward restructuring and consolidation. The International Steel Group (ISG), which came into existence following its purchase of LTV, has agreed to acquire the assets of Bethlehem Steel. US Steel announced plans to purchase National Steel. Section 201 relief, if allowed to run its course, will result in a more competitive domestic industry.

The tariffs were a good start, and they must be allowed to continue. The United States has finally made clear that it is no longer willing to serve as the World's Steel Dumping Ground. The United States has also made clear that the national security of our country requires a strong and viable domestic steel supplier base. Only the continuation of the 201 tariffs will mitigate the harm of unfairly traded imports and assist the industry in a critical recovery. Keep the steel tariffs working!

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MYRTLE GROVE  
VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 6, 2003*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th Anniversary of the Myrtle Grove Volunteer Fire Department. The Myrtle Grove Volunteer Fire Department, consisting of about two dozen men and women, made it first fire run on March 6, 1953.

The station was originally a single-bay building at the corner of 69th Avenue and Lillian Highway. The present building, at Lillian and 72nd Avenue, was completed in 1978. The community and volunteer firefighters raised the money together by knocking on doors.

Over 1,200 calls were taken last year by firefighters, both paid and volunteer, who work from the station to guard the Myrtle Grove area. This responsiveness has given the volunteer firefighters the credibility of professionals.

The Myrtle Grove company is a family-oriented group. Assistant Fire Chief Robert Jordan is the successor and grandson of the original fire chief John "Pap" Rolfs Sr. Carl Jordan, father of Robert, served as Assistant Chief for thirty years. Everyone, who serves in the station, is known to have close relationships with one another.

On behalf of the United States Congress and the people of Myrtle Grove, I would like to recognize this group of people for the standard of excellence and bravery that they have shown in their community. I offer my sincere thanks for all that they have done for Northwest Florida and this great Nation.