

began his journey of public service in 1956, when he won his first bid as Mayor of the Village of Independence.

Mayor Wisnieski served Independence as mayor for twenty-two years, bringing a sense of fairness, integrity and kindness to the office. During his leadership, the City flourished. He led the effort in commercial growth along Rockside and Pleasant Valley Roads. This vital development provided a sound tax base, which translated into superior city services and low property taxes for all residents.

And years before public officials became environmentally enlightened, Mayor Wisnieski understood the significant and delicate balance between progress and preservation. It was Mayor Wisnieski who led the effort to preserve nearly fifteen acres of green space in the heart of Independence, known for decades as Elmwood Park. Because of his leadership and vision, this beautiful tree-lined park continues to provide recreational enjoyment to thousands of residents, young and old, every year, in the form of swimming, baseball, soccer, fishing, and tennis, strolling, and biking.

Additionally, Mayor Wisnieski's concern for the safety of all residents led to the construction of new fire and police complexes with additional staff to accommodate any medical or safety emergency—twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.

Mayor Wisnieski has always been a champion of community volunteerism and helping others. He is a founding charter member of the Kiwanis Club of Independence, and founding member of the Independence Historical Society.

Remarkably, throughout all of his exceptional accomplishments, Mayor Wisnieski remains today as he always has been—humble, gentle, and kind—always willing to offer a smile, friendly word, or helping hand. Mayor Wisnieski continues to exude a genuine love and concern for all people, and he extends to everyone the same warmth and respect, regardless of their title or social status.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor, gratitude and recognition of "W" Pete Wisnieski, former Mayor of Independence. Mayor Wisnieski's hard work, insight, and dedication to his community have served to uplift and improve every facet of the City of Independence, and set a strong foundation for future ideas, projects and growth. Mayor Wisnieski combined heart with grit while in office, and continues to be the finest example of a citizen, leader, husband, father, grandfather, neighbor and friend. Mayor Wisnieski has earned the admiration and respect of the entire Independence community, as well as the entire Greater Cleveland community and beyond. "Where after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home."—Eleanor Roosevelt.

THE CUNNINGHAM/MARKEY EFFICIENT ENERGY THROUGH CERTIFIED TECHNOLOGIES ACT OF 2003

**HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 13, 2003*

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Efficient Energy

Through Certified Technologies, EFFECT, Act of 2003. I am joined in this effort by a substantial and diverse coalition of my colleagues including Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts, Mr. CRANE of Illinois, Mr. MATSUI of California, as well as Senator SNOWE of Maine and Senator FEINSTEIN of California. This bill is supported by a strong coalition of industries and organizations.

In the 1990s, San Diego alone experienced a 10.2 percent increase in population. This number is expected to rise even further in the next ten years. With such a significant rise in population, comes the need for additional housing. Congressman MARKEY and I have created legislation that would give builders and consumers a reason to construct housing and purchase equipment that not only saves the consumer money in the long run, but also helps save energy. This legislation offers tax incentives to encourage the production and sale of technologically advanced, energy-efficient buildings and equipment.

My constituents in San Diego suffered through the Energy Crisis during the summer of 2001. The aftershocks of the rolling blackouts and outrageously high energy prices are still being felt. While my colleagues from San Diego and I are still seeking ways to prevent this terrible crisis from happening again, I am introducing this bill in an effort to formulate a long-term energy plan.

Buildings account for over \$250 billion of energy use annually, more than half of peak electric demand, and 35 percent of air pollution emissions. Tax incentives for buildings and their major equipment can reduce energy use anywhere from 30 percent to 50 percent, and help to improve air quality. The incentives will reduce peak power demand, which can diffuse the risk of blackouts and high electricity prices. Peak power shortages cost California \$15 billion in 2000 alone.

This legislation is performance based, not cost based. One dollar of federal tax incentives for energy efficiency offered today will not be paid until January-April 2004, but manufacturers will respond to the incentives by investing in production facilities for more efficient products immediately.

The legislation is structured to promote the creation of competitive markets for new technologies and designs that are not widely available today, but have the possibility of being cost effective to the consumer in the future.

Please join me in supporting the EFFECT Act which will provide for a cleaner environment and help reduce energy needs, thus postponing the need for building new power plants as well as helping to save our environment.

THE JAVITS-WAGNER O'DAY PROGRAM WORKS FOR AMERICA

**HON. RICHARD BURR**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 13, 2003*

Mr. BURR. Mr. Speaker, for the past 64 years the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Program has empowered Americans who are blind or severely disabled by providing them with a diverse set of employment opportunities. Today, 38,000 disabled Americans are realizing their potential by working in their local communities

under this program. These Americans are proud to provide the Federal Government and the U.S. Military with a wide array of SKILCRAFT® brand and other program products and services. The Program prides itself on delivering high-quality products and services at competitive prices in the most convenient way possible.

The Javits-Wagner-O'Day Program includes, among other things, the following product categories: office supply, military-specific, safety, maintenance, repair, medical-surgical, janitorial-sanitation, and customization. The services that are provided to federal and military customers include, but are not limited to, call center and switchboard operation, military base and federal office building supply centers, CD-ROM duplication-replication, data entry, document imaging and grounds care.

I rise today in support of the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Program and the opportunities it provides for an underemployed population of hard-working Americans. Sales of these products and services are enabling more disabled Americans to have the opportunity to become full members of society, including paying into the tax base rather than taking from it. Today in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, 127 blind Americans are employed under the Program, and are producing quality items and services for federal customers.

The Javits-Wagner-O'Day Program is administered by the Committee for Purchase from People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled (appointed by the President), with much assistance from National Industries for the Blind, NIB, and NISH, which serves people with a wide range of disabilities. More than 650 local nonprofit agencies associated with NIB and NISH employ people who are blind or disabled to produce the products and offer the services authorized for sale to the federal government under the Program.

The Javits-Wagner-O'Day Program is a great illustration of a successful partnership, a partnership that has the ability to grow with the changing procurement environment within the federal government.

EDITORIAL BY LT. COL. CRAIG MAYER

**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 13, 2003*

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to my colleagues' attention an editorial written by Lieutenant Colonel Craig Mayer (ret.) of Bedford, Pennsylvania. Lt. Col. Mayer is a former U.S. Department of Defense attaché and served as a member of the United States Marines during the Vietnam War. On March 7, 2003 Colonel Mayer wrote an eloquent editorial that describes not only his reflections of war, but also made a compelling case in support of military action against Saddam Hussein. I urge my colleagues to keep the following article in mind as the debate concerning Iraq continues;

When I think of America going to war with Iraq, what comes to mind first is the distinct, sickeningly sweet smell and the fell of dark, sticky blood as I helped drag a horribly wounded young Marine to a medevac helicopter. And the memory of picking up the