

operations plans (COOP) address securing the safety of all employees and responding to the needs of personnel performing essential operations, but essential personnel make up only a small portion of the total federal workforce.

Neither the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) nor the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the agencies responsible for providing emergency preparedness guidance in COOP, have addressed workforce considerations related to the resumption of broader agency operations. While COOP efforts should give priority to the safety of all employees and address the needs of those who directly support essential operations, the resumption all other operations is crucial to achieving mission results and serving the American people.

The GAO report states that, "Given that the majority of employees would be associated with resumption efforts rather than essential operations, considering this segment of the organization is an important part of continuity planning." According to GAO, continuity efforts should be guided by two key workforce principles: the demonstration of sensitivity to individual employee needs and the maximization of all employees contributions to mission results.

I introduced H.R. 4797 to push agencies to do just that. The legislation would require the Chief Human Capital Officer Council to conduct and evaluate a 30-day demonstration project that broadly uses employees' contributions to an agency's operations from alternate work locations, including home. The outcome of the demonstration project would provide agencies and Congress with approaches to gaining flexibility and identifying work processes that should be addressed during an extended emergency situation.

This Congress experienced a prolonged emergency situation when, in 2001, congressional office buildings were closed from 2 weeks to 3 months due to the threat of anthrax contamination. Congressional staff stayed home, or they were hastily relocated to nearby federal office buildings. A Congressional Research Report on congressional continuity of operations stated that although alternate office accommodations were in place, office computer and hard copy files in the closed offices, in many cases, were inaccessible.

The number and types of potential emergency interruptions are unknown and we must be prepared, in advance of an incident, with the work processes and infrastructure needed to reestablish agency operations.

In a world where anything is possible, we must be prepared for all the possibilities.

ACT APPLAUDS EFFORTS TO ENSURE CONTINUITY OF FEDERAL OPERATIONS THROUGH TELEWORKING

The Association for Commuter Transportation applauds Congressman Danny Davis (D-IL) in his effort to ensure continuity of Federal operations in the event of an emergency, natural or manmade, by making effective use of telecommuting. The legislation introduced today by Congressman Davis will show that establishing effective telework programs for the Federal Workforce will allow for continuity of federal operations in the event of an emergency.

The events of September 11th showed us that the Federal government needs to be better prepared to operate in the event of an emergency. However, an act of terror is not the only event that prevents the federal gov-

ernment from operating effectively. Recent events such as the anthrax incident, the tractor incident, numerous weather related events, and the events surrounding the passing of former President Reagan have all but shut down the National Capital Region. Despite this fact, the government has a need to function day to day processes even in the event of an emergency.

ACT feels that the legislation introduced today will serve as a test bed on how to operate in the event of such emergencies and provide a pilot for emergency preparedness in the context of natural disasters in other regions as well. The legislation will leave us better prepared to face the next event, and will also highlight the many benefit of telecommuting and will teach us what we need to do better.

ACT urges the Government Reform Committee and the full Congress to pass this legislation into law. We believe that the Chairman of the Government Reform Committee, Tom Davis (R-VA) is true champion of teleworking and we hope that he will align himself with this legislation.

ACT looks forward to working with Congress and with Congressmen Danny Davis (D-IL) and Tom Davis (R-VA) to see passage of this important bill.

The members of ACT represent a broad coalition of organizations—from major private-sector businesses and institutions to transportation agencies—but we all have one thing in common . . . We are all working cooperatively to make transportation work better by making it more efficient and less costly. ACT members understand that addressing the nation's transportation challenges requires investment in a comprehensive multi-faceted approach—not just the way we build our transportation systems, but the way we use our transportation system. Through programs and services that enhance and promote real transportation choices, ACT members and their partners are developing innovative solutions designed to ensure personal mobility, maximize the performance, security and safety of transportation facilities.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DR. PAUL SMITH

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 13, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to pay tribute to Dr. Paul Smith and thank him for his work as Associate Chief of Staff for Community-Based Care. His years of commitment and dedication as a public servant are certainly commendable and worthy of recognition before this body of Congress and this nation today. As Paul celebrates his retirement, let it be known that I, along with my fellow Coloradans are grateful for all that he has accomplished during his years of service.

Paul received his degrees from the University of Southern Colorado in Pueblo, Colorado Northwestern University Medical School before going on to join the U.S. Army as a physician in 1991 and completed his Family Practice residency at Womack Army Medical Center, Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Paul became Board Certified in Family Practice and then served for four more years as an active duty Family Physician at Evans Army Community Hospital, Fort Carson, Colorado.

Paul entered private practice in Pueblo, Colorado in 1998 and enjoyed a busy practice

until 2000 when he joined the Veterans Affairs Department as a staff physician at the Pueblo VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic in August. He is a member of the National Academy of Family Physicians and a 2001 graduate of the VA's Health Care Leadership Institute course.

In addition to his strength as a doctor Paul also excels in administration, as he was appointed Acting Chief of Staff of the Southern Colorado Health Care System (SCHCS) in 2000 and became Acting Director in 2002. Through his guidance and coordination of the integration of the SCHCS with the Denver VA Medical Center it has become a stalwart model of exemplary healthcare. This experience led to his current position as Associate Chief of Staff for Community-Based Care, overseeing seven Community Based Outpatient Clinics throughout the Eastern Colorado Health Care System.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that Dr. Paul Smith has been an invaluable resource to the Colorado Health care. It is my honor to recognize his service and dedication before this body of Congress and this nation. I am grateful for the opportunity to work with dedicated public servants like Paul. On behalf of the citizens that have benefited from the hard work and commitment he has given to the Community-Based Care Program and the constituents it serves, I extend my appreciation for his years of dedicated service.

ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 13, 2004

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, two weeks ago, I returned from my fifth trip to Iraq since the President declared an end to major combat operations last May. I was able to visit with our brave men and women in uniform, many of whom still endure daily rocket strikes. Their resolve and ability to maintain good spirits in the harshest of environments is a testament to the caliber of our armed forces and their dedication to their jobs.

Last week I learned of the death Lance Corporal Michael Torres, a young man from my district who was killed by enemy fire in Fallujah. A high school scholar, athlete, and young Texas State Guardsman, Lance Corporal Torres joined the Marine Corps to serve his country and his fellow Americans. His pride for our Nation and his willingness to serve is an inspiration for El Paso and our country.

Yesterday, along with my colleagues SOLOMON ORTIZ and GRACE NAPOLITANO, I joined Congressman LANE EVANS in touring the Rock Island Arsenal, located in his district. Congressman EVANS invited us to visit this premier facility of which he is so proud and to which he offers much support. At Rock Island, we were able to see armor kits being made for Humvees, and talk with the employees who have been tirelessly working 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to produce armor kits for our Humvees that are in theater in Iraq. Having seen some of these armor kits being installed in Kuwait, and having talked to soldiers both installing the kits and receiving armored vehicles, I wanted to pass on their gratitude to the workers.