

greatly missed, he deeply touched the lives of everyone he knew.

Mr. D'Angelo was a true renaissance man, whose mastery of the carpentry trades, artistry in the boxing ring, and expertise in the field of aeronautical mechanics belied his kind and compassion heart. His main focus was always his family. Together, Mr. D'Angelo and his beloved wife of 54 years, "Millie," raised their five children.

A devoted husband and father, Mr. D'Angelo worked diligently to provide for them. Whether driving a truck, climbing into the boxing ring, or creating the Prehistoric World Diorama at Disneyland, Mr. D'Angelo did so with commitment, heart and grace. Though unimpressed by awards and accolades, his work at Disneyland captured the attention, honor and respect of Mr. Walt Disney himself. In addition to Mr. Disney, Mr. D'Angelo captured the honor, respect and love of those who loved and knew him best—his family and friends.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Gregory Anthony D'Angelo. I offer my deepest condolences to his wife and companion of 54 years, Millie; his children, Joseph, Kathleen, Annie, John and Susan; his daughters-in-law, Robyn and Susan; his sons-in-law, Charles, Willie and Curt; his 12 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren; his sister, Stella; and to his extended family and many friends. Mr. D'Angelo left this world with a legacy that shines love and light upon his family, friends and community. His joy of life, caring heart and concern for others defined his life and will live on in the hearts of all who knew and loved well, today, and for all time.

THE INDENTURED SERVITUDE  
ABOLITION ACT OF 2005 INTRO-  
DUCTORY STATEMENT

**HON. GEORGE MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 11, 2005*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Indentured Servitude Abolition Act of 2005. At a time when the President and many Members of this House are discussing legislation to greatly expand the number of foreign workers who come to the United States legally for work, we must ensure that they are not indentured servants who owe unconscionable fees to recruiters.

One hundred and forty years ago, the American Civil War ended. Slavery and involuntary servitude were prohibited throughout our nation by the adoption of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution. And yet, as has been well documented in the press, thousands of men (and especially women) endure abuse as indentured servants because, as a condition of securing a job, they must pay exorbitant fees to labor recruiters—fees it can take years to payoff. The problem of recruiter-related indentured servitude has been well publicized in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, but it is a problem throughout this country, and it will grow as more guest workers are permitted. Foreign labor contractors lure workers to the United States by promising them a better life with decent wages and good jobs in

exchange for thousands of dollars in fees. Instead, workers arrive in the U.S. only to find that they were cruelly deceived. They earn unlivable wages for menial jobs to which they never agreed, with no insurance or health care, and deeply in debt to the recruiter for bringing them to their new home.

Sadly, those are the least of their worries. Workers endure sweatshop conditions and back-breaking work for inhumanly long hours. They are forced to work through illness and injury with only one day of rest per week. Employers automatically deduct the majority of their weekly pay for room and board, often for living situations not fit for animals and starvation rations, leaving workers with a few dollars if not further in debt. And that is when their wages are not withheld, a frequent occurrence. Most distressing of all, many workers suffer physical violence at the hands of their employers and are threatened if they should try to leave. Unable to pay off debt manufactured by the recruiters and their employer and fearing for their lives, workers are trapped.

This is not an exaggeration: it is the disturbing reality for thousands of workers in this country. This is not employment opportunity: it is indentured servitude, and it should not be occurring in the United States in 2005. Just this week investigations into La Mode Inc., a Saipan company that unlawfully suspended operations while owing workers back wages of more than \$395,000, revealed that Chinese employees were required to pay recruitment fees of \$4,500 to \$8,000 for the privilege of working at a job that pays barely \$3 an hour, and then being unlawfully terminated before the expiration of their contract, cheated out of their pay, and abandoned in a strange land.

This deplorable practice not only undermines living standards, it ruins lives. It is a violation of basic human rights that leaves workers as indentured servants, forcing them to endure a form of modern day slavery. The Indentured Servitude Abolition Act of 2005 will end this cruel practice by providing for tough legal accountability for foreign labor contractors and employers.

The "Indentured Servitude Abolition Act of 2005" holds recruiters and employers responsible for the promises they make to prospective employees, and discourages employers from using disreputable recruiters. The bill requires employers and foreign labor contractors to inform workers of the terms and conditions of their employment at the time they are recruited. It makes employers jointly liable for violations committed by recruiters in their employ. It imposes fines on employers and recruiters who do not live up to their promises and authorizes the Secretary of Labor to take additional legal action to enforce those commitments. Employers and recruiters are prohibited from requiring or requesting recruitment fees from workers and are required to pay the costs, including subsistence costs, of transporting the worker.

The bill discourages disreputable labor contractors by requiring the Secretary of Labor to maintain a public list of labor contractors who have been involved in violations of the Act and by providing additional penalties if employers use a contractor listed by the Secretary as having been involved in previous violations of this Act and that contractor contributes to a violation for which the employer may be liable. The remedies provided under the "Indentured Servitude Abolition Act" are not exclusive, but

are in addition to any other remedies workers may have under law or contract.

The legislation I am introducing has been endorsed by the Farmworker Justice Fund, the National Employment Law Project, and the AFL-CIO. The National Employment Law Project notes that "labor recruiters currently enjoy a near total lack of accountability for the workers' job conditions" and that the bill performs "an important service by requiring both the users of the labor and the recruiters themselves to inform workers on the job conditions they can expect."

The Farmworker Justice Fund notes that the legislation addresses, "the new reality of global labor migration. . . . In many cases foreign workers who are recruited for U.S. jobs suffer harsh abuses in the form of huge debts, usurious loans, threats of violence, false promises, and illegal wages and working conditions. . . . We must gain control over labor migration and this is one important step toward that goal."

Is it too much to ask that people who live on American soil, making products for American consumption, be treated like American workers? Our basic respect for human rights demands that we act now to protect these workers. I am pleased that 24 of our colleagues have joined me as original cosponsors of this bill. I am hopeful that all of our colleagues, on both sides of the aisle, will add their support to this critical legislation to end the despicable practice of slavery in the United States once and for all. Mr. Speaker, I urge Members of the House to join me and co-sponsor the Indentured Servitude Abolition Act of 2005.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF MI-  
CHAEL H. PERSIANI ON HIS AP-  
POINTMENT TO ATTEND THE  
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
ACADEMY

**HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 11, 2005*

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to pay special tribute to an outstanding young man from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. I am happy to announce that Michael H. Persiani of Perrysburg, Ohio has been offered an appointment to attend the United States Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Michael's offer of appointment positions him to attend the United States Air Force Academy this fall with the incoming cadet class of 2009. Attending one of our Nation's military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education and demands the very best that these young men and women have to offer. Truly, it is one of the most challenging and rewarding undertakings of their lives.

Michael brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming class of Air Force cadets. While attending St. John's Jesuit High School in Toledo, Ohio, Michael has attained a grade point average of 3.90, which places him near the top of his class of nearly two hundred students. While a gifted athlete, Michael has maintained the highest standards of excellence in his academics, choosing to enroll and excel in Advanced Placement classes throughout high school. Michael has been a member