

BELLEVUE: THE #1 CITY IN  
AMERICA FOR SMALL BUSINESS

**HON. DAVID G. REICHERT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2008*

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate the City of Bellevue, Washington, for being named the best place in the Nation to live and launch a business by Fortune Small Business. Anyone who has visited in the past decade couldn't help but notice the abundance of construction cranes throughout the downtown area. They would also quickly realize that Bellevue embodies the true spirit of American innovation. I'm proud to represent this city that lies within the Eighth Congressional District of Washington.

Bellevue is a worthy recipient of this honor, with its growing downtown and natural beauty thanks to its proximity to the Cascade Mountains and breathtaking Mount Rainier. Citizens can enjoy the 90 city parks or nearby views of Lake Washington. With multiple high-tech corporations in the city, Bellevue draws a talented, high-tech workforce that embodies the entrepreneurial spirit that grows our economy and creates jobs.

As we celebrate the achievements of small businesses across the Nation during "Small Business Week," it is my hope that cities across the country follow Bellevue's lead and embrace their entrepreneurial spirit. Small businesses are the backbone of our economy, and provide the key to our economy's resilience in uncertain economic times. Today, I'm proud to honor the City of Bellevue for its achievements in creating one of the finest places in America to live and work.

I ask for unanimous consent to insert the following article into the record.

THE NO. 1 CHAMPION: BELLEVUE, WASH. ABUNDANT TECH TALENT. GORGEOUS VIEWS. (BUT COSTLY HOMES AND TAXES.)

(By Mina Kimes, March 26, 2008)

BELLEVUE, WASH. (FORTUNE Small Business)—Earl Overstreet, Chief Executive Officer of General Microsystems (GMI) in Bellevue, travels fewer than five times a year for business. But he visits the Mercer Slough Nature Park, across the street from his office, every day on his lunch break. He walks across a wooden bridge, gazes at Bellevue's rising downtown—and then turns away.

Over the past ten years Overstreet has watched the city evolve from a bedroom community into an urban center of skyscrapers and 117,000 inhabitants (the latest population figures, according to the local chamber of commerce), but he's more eager to point out blackberry bushes and red-tailed hawks.

"When you're surrounded by mountains and nature," he says, "you can't help but be content."

Overstreet, 60, and his wife, Barb, the firm's CFO, spend free time hiking, kayaking, and biking around the area. While new businesses are cropping up quickly, most office buildings are still enveloped by greenery—the city boasts 90 parks and 50 miles of trail. "Taxes [including a 0.1496% business tax on gross receipts] and property costs are high," says Overstreet, "but it's a premium for the living conditions."

The median home sale price hovers at \$500,000 (the metro area averages about \$400,000), but Bellevue, lying 20 minutes from Seattle, also boasts low crime rates, great

schools, and excellent health care. Nearly 60% of locals over 25 have at least a bachelor's degree. The city expects to add 15,500 jobs by 2010, up 11.5% from 2006. Bellevue's strategic location helps tire growth. GMI, whose revenue rose from \$6 million in 2002 to \$28 million last year, is based near its suppliers—Hitachi, Symantec, Sun Microsystems—as well as customers such as Boeing and Starbucks.

"Many of our employees came from our clients," Overstreet says.

The city is also a font of tech talent, thanks to the Microsoft campus in nearby Redmond. Many former Microsofties have launched startups in Bellevue. Current employees pour wealth into a growing service sector.

Overstreet points out that many small businesses in Bellevue operate globally—not surprising considering that 40% of the population is nonwhite or foreign-born. "We do have a glittering downtown now," he says, "but it's the diversity that attracts entrepreneurs like me."

COMMEMORATING THE SURVIVORS  
OF THE 93RD ANNIVERSARY OF  
THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

**HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2008*

Mr. ACKERMAN, Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the survivors of the Armenian genocide. Today marks the 93rd anniversary of the Armenian genocide which began in 1915 and lasted until 1923. Over the course of 8 years 1.5 million Armenians in the Ottoman Empire were murdered and over 500,000 were forced into exile. On this day we should take a moment to think of the survivors and commend them for the bravery they continue to show in the face of the memories they carry of that awful time.

We are told to never to forget the egregious acts that human beings commit against other human beings, especially when they come in the form of a calculated mass extermination of a single people. In remembering the Armenian genocide it is important to keep in mind that we are not pointing fingers at Turkey. Modern day Turkey is no more the Ottoman Empire than today's Germany is the Third Reich. But we must not banish the truth from the world stage. What was done to the Armenian people was atrocious, nothing less than a crime against humanity. As such, it is our responsibility to accurately describe what happened between 1915 and 1923 and admit that what was done to the Armenian people was genocide.

As each year passes the number of survivors of the Armenian genocide diminishes further. And while there is nothing that can be done to alter the past, we can and should ensure that generations to come know how the Armenian people suffered at the hands of the Ottoman Empire. It is also important that this day be marked to commemorate the survivors of the Armenian genocide so that their fight for survival is honored and revered rather than forgotten and ignored.

Madam Speaker, I ask that all of my colleagues to join me in commemorating the survivors of the Armenian genocide on its 93rd anniversary.

INTRODUCTION RESOLUTION  
REGARDING TSA RAIL SECURITY

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2008*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution regarding the role of the Transportation Security Administration in securing our Nation's rail and mass transit lines. This resolution reaffirms the Congressional mandate provided for in the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 that the Transportation Security Administration enhance security against terrorist attack and other security threats to our Nation's rail and mass transit lines.

I am pleased to have Homeland Security Committee Chairman BENNIE THOMPSON, as an original cosponsor of this resolution. Chairman THOMPSON has been a leader in our efforts to secure against terrorist threats to our Nation's rail and mass transit lines.

Each weekday 11,300,000 passengers depend on our Nation's mass transit lines as a means of transportation.

Our Nation's mass transit lines serve as a target for terrorist attack as evidenced by the March 11, 2004, attack on the Madrid, Spain, mass transit system, the July 7, 2005, attack on the London, England, mass transit system, and the July 11, 2006, attack on the Mumbai, India, mass transit system.

The Transportation Security Administration has, through the development of its National Explosives Detection Canine Team Program, furthered its ability to provide security against terrorist attacks on the Nation's transportation systems by preventing and protecting against explosives threats.

It is imperative that our Nation's rail and mass transit lines remain secure from terrorist attack as they are critical to the functioning of our Nation's economy and serve as a means of transportation on a daily basis for millions of hard-working Americans.

JOURNEY THROUGH HALLOWED  
GROUND NATIONAL HERITAGE  
AREA

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 24, 2008*

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, Pursuant to the Republican guidelines on earmarks, I submit the following statement for the RECORD regarding S. 2739, the Consolidated National Resources Act, which includes the Journey Through Hallowed Ground National Heritage Area.

Requesting Member: Congressman Frank Wolf.

Bill Number: S. 2739.

Provision: Title II, Section 2010.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Journey Through Hallowed Ground Partnership.

Address of Requesting Entity: P.O. Box 77, Waterford, VA 20197.

Description of Request: The legislation authorizes the appropriation of up to \$1,000,000 a year for the purpose of carrying out a management plan, which must first be approved