

TRIBUTE TO THE SHCC

HON. SCOTT GARRETTOF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey (SHCC). To honor this organization, the State of New Jersey has designated October 13 through October 19 Hispanic Business Week.

The health of the Hispanic business community is vital to maintaining the strength of the New Jersey economy. This year, the Statewide Hispanic Chamber of New Jersey is celebrating 19 years of service and commitment on behalf of the growing small business community. They have positioned themselves as number one out of the top 50 Chambers of Commerce of the State of New Jersey.

I also want to recognize Daniel H. Jara, founding president and CEO of the Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey. Daniel has been listed in the elite group of the State's 2006 Movers and Shakers Most Influential Business Leaders by NJBiz.

The Hispanic market represents the fastest growing sector in the United States. In the Garden State, this segment of the population has experienced an 87-percent growth in less than 10 years. This year, it is estimated that there are over 70,000 Hispanic-owned businesses, which support approximately 190,000 jobs and generate \$10.5 billion in sales. According to the last economic census, New Jersey has the fifth largest concentration of Hispanic-owned businesses in the Nation.

The Statewide Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey will hold its 18th Annual Convention and Expo on October 17, 2008. I wish the Chamber success as they continue striving to grow New Jersey's economy.

INTRODUCTION OF THE CAN DO
BILL**HON. BOBBY L. RUSH**OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the Communities in Action Neighborhood and Opportunity bill, also known as the CAN DO bill. The Department of Justice reports that, on average, 45 people are shot and killed daily in America. Annually, there are 16,000–17,000 gun deaths in America.

In contrast, the total number of American casualties in Iraq, over the entire 5-year span of the war, is about 4,155 and for Afghanistan, it's at least 500. The combined total of casualties for Iraq and Afghanistan is less than 5,000 since both wars began. More Americans are killed in America than American soldiers killed in combat in Iraq and Afghanistan combined.

Madam Speaker, as elected leaders of this country, we must address this critical issue that inflicts so many of our most vulnerable communities. This issue of gun violence affects all Americans, white, black, Latino, and Asian. And gun violence pervades in all of our communities: urban, suburban, and rural.

This issue is not a black or white issue, and it is not an urban or rural issue. This is an

American issue that we must address with all of the resources we have at our disposal.

The CAN DO bill offers a new strategy in dealing with gun violence. It combines strict law enforcement practices, along with new opportunities for mental health counseling, job programs, and educational and recreational services for at-risk youth and their families.

This bill is also unique in that it brings together the entire community to deal with the issue of gun violence by establishing partnerships between public agencies, businesses, community-based nonprofits, churches, schools, and universities. There is an "all hands on" approach in order to get all of the stakeholders involved and provide a comprehensive and effective strategy that families and communities can support and get behind.

As it is recorded by the Prophet Isaiah, "They will turn their swords into plows, and their spears into pruning knives. Nations will not take up the sword against other nations and they will never again train for war".

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support the CAN DO bill and help end the destruction that is tearing apart so many of our communities. Americans of conscience must come together to stop the senseless death of "The Daily 45." When will we say "enough is enough, stop the killing".

IN HONOR OF CONGRESSMAN JIM
RAMSTAD**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend and colleague, Congressman JIM RAMSTAD, as he retires from the U.S. House of Representatives.

Congressman RAMSTAD is dedicated to public service. He served as a First Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Reserve after graduating from the University of Minnesota and then as a Criminal Justice attorney before being elected to the Minnesota Senate in 1981 and to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1990. Today, he is a member of the Board of Directors of Minnesota D.A.R.E and the Lake County Food Bank.

Minnesota has been fortunate to have a leader like Congressman RAMSTAD representing us in the House of Representatives. Congressman RAMSTAD is one of a rare class of members who always puts policy above partisanship, and with his focus on law enforcement and health care, has made a real difference for families in Minnesota and across the country.

He showed his immense courage and commitment by speaking about his own challenges with chemical dependency during his work on the Paul Wellstone Mental Health and Addiction Equity Act. His dedication to reducing the stigma associated with mental health and chemical dependency and ensuring fairness in health care has changed the lives of millions of Americans.

Congressman RAMSTAD served on the Health Subcommittee of the Ways and Means Committee and has worked effectively on issues relating to health care access. As a freshman Member of the House, he recog-

nized the growing importance of technology to health care and to Minnesota's economy, and started the Medical Technology Caucus. This caucus has brought much needed attention to the field of medical technology and created a forum for Members and staff to learn more about these important innovations.

His important work in this area also has a global reach. I was proud to have Jim as a partner in introducing legislation to expand access to voluntary family planning in developing countries.

It has been an honor to serve alongside Congressman RAMSTAD in the Minnesota Delegation for the last 7 years. I have learned a lot from him, and will miss him. However, Minnesotans can rest assured that JIM's public service will continue long after he leaves Congress.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring the service of Congressman JIM RAMSTAD in the U.S. House of Representatives.

NATIONAL WORK AND FAMILY
MONTH**HON. CAROLYN McCARTHY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, over the past several decades, employers, human resource professionals, policymakers, and everyone who works have come to understand the importance of supporting the often competing demands of work, home, and community. Support for the work-life juggling act has expanded to cover the predictable life events that occur throughout a career.

According to recent data and studies, balancing work and family is increasingly important to the strength of America's businesses today; 85 percent of United States wage and salaried workers have immediate, day-to-day family responsibilities outside of their jobs.

According to 2007 report by WorldatWork titled "Attraction and Retention: The Impact and Prevalence of Work-life and Benefit Programs", the quality of workers' jobs and the supportiveness of their workplaces are key predictors of job productivity, job satisfaction, commitment to employers, and retention.

Given the current economic crisis that is squeezing the family budget at a rate unprecedented since the Great Depression, from the escalating price of such basics as gasoline and food, at the same time housing values are declining, now more than ever it is essential to give working families some relief. Time is the new currency and has become as valuable a benefit as money. Research shows that workplace flexibility is the most highly prized response that employers can provide to 21st century workplace realities.

Workplace flexibility is not a trivial pursuit; it is a business imperative today. Corporations that engage in these family-supportive practices have earned 2–3 times the stock values, and creating a collegial, flexible work environment has been shown empirically to create a minimum of 9 percent of shareholder value.

No one is a pioneer; the path to flexibility is well-traveled, and best practices abound in all sectors—public as well as private. Many businesses are doing an exemplary job in this area already. H. Res. 1440 recognizes that