

universities throughout the U.S. have also been granted.

Throughout her life, Dolores Huerta has proven to be a highly effective community leader whose commitment to justice and public service has proven beneficial for farm workers, working families and women throughout the nation. At the age of 78, Dolores' relentless work continues. We thank her for her noble service and wish her continued success for the future.

IN HONOR OF DR. CARL KOHRT

HON. DEBORAH PRYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Ms. PRYCE. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the citizens of Ohio, I want to recognize the accomplishments of Dr. Carl Kohrt, as he retires as president and chief executive officer of Battelle Memorial Institute.

Carl assumed the leadership of Battelle in 2001 after a long career at Kodak. He immediately put his experience from the private sector into practice at the world's largest non-profit independent research and development organization. Over the past eight years, Battelle has grown substantially in business volume and impact. Battelle has won competitions to manage and operate research and development laboratories for the Department of Energy, the Department of Homeland Security, and international organizations.

Battelle has also been selected for many projects in support of various national and homeland security programs. In fact, within a few weeks of Carl's arrival at Battelle in the summer of 2001, he was able to marshal Battelle's suite of capabilities to help the United States respond to the impact of the 9/11 attacks. Battelle was later asked by the White House to provide staff to help with the creation of the Department of Homeland Security.

Carl Kohrt has also enhanced Battelle's corporate role in the City of Columbus and the State of Ohio. He developed a strategic partnership with The Ohio State University. Battelle has supported many civic enterprises on behalf of the State of Ohio, the City of Columbus, Franklin County, and other organizations, such as COSI.

The son of schoolteachers, Dr. Kohrt, has left a major imprint on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) education in Ohio through the Metro School, which is a partnership with The Ohio State University and the school districts of Franklin County. Battelle has also joined with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, as well as other educational entities in the State of Ohio, to develop additional schools with a focus on STEM education throughout Ohio. Carl's indelible imprint on Ohio will be a signature effort on behalf of STEM education.

The way to judge one's impact on an organization or community is to measure one's personal and corporate accomplishments. Through this lens, it is easy to conclude that Carl has been an outstanding leader for Battelle as an organization and an outstanding leader in the Columbus metropolitan area. Carl has made a significant difference, and we extend to him and his family best wishes and good health in his retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF SHERYL
YOUNG AND COMMUNITY
GATEPATH

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I would like our chamber to recognize a giant in the non-profit community, Sheryl Young, Chief Executive Officer of Community Gatepath, which serves San Mateo, San Francisco and Santa Clara Counties.

Sheryl oversees one of the largest and oldest local non-profit organizations in our nation. Each year, the organization serves more than 8,000 children, adults, seniors and their families, as well as the countless professionals who support them. For close to 90 years, Community Gatepath, with a budget of \$11 million, has provided programs, support services, education, and information to those most vulnerable in our society. Sheryl's staff of 150 employees are dedicated to making their motto more than just words. These good people have their hearts committed to Turning Disabilities into Possibilities.

Sheryl Young has more than two decades of managerial experience and her keen business sense has lifted Community Gatepath to new levels. She has an almost unnatural ability to build sustainable non-profit programs. Sheryl has drawn from the best of non-profit and for-profit management styles to craft the unique organizational model that works so well for Community Gatepath. Sheryl is a gifted administrator who leads by example and is always poised to attempt new programs or explore new tools to better service the developmentally disabled community. She is an inspiration to her staff, board of directors and the community leaders who work with her.

As proof of Sheryl's standing in our community, "The Sheryl Young Community Impact Award" has been established to pay tribute to persons, businesses and organizations who make an impact in their community by helping people with disabilities.

Sheryl is a graduate of the Stanford University Graduate School of Business Executive Program for Non-Profit Leaders. She also earned a Masters of Public Health from the University of California at Berkeley, a Masters Degree in Special Education from Ball State University and a Bachelors Degree in Political Science from Purdue University.

Madam Speaker, I first met Sheryl while she worked for San Mateo County and I was a County Supervisor. A member of my staff had a sister who gave birth to a child with Down Syndrome, named Heidi. The new mother was grief-stricken because she had been told by doctors that she would be unable to raise Heidi by herself and should turn her daughter over to a residential treatment center. I reached out to Sheryl and she did not disappoint. She called numerous community agencies, eventually contacting Poplar Center, which was the predecessor to Community Gatepath, and asked if there was any other alternative to giving up the child. Not only was the organization able to help Heidi, but they nabbed a remarkable volunteer, too. Sheryl was so impressed with the program at Poplar Center that she stayed involved. Shortly thereafter, Sheryl's heart and her head convinced

her to leave county government and accept an offer to lead the Poplar Center.

By the way, Madam Speaker, I am pleased to note that this year, Heidi will graduate from high school after having lived with her family since she was born.

Madam Speaker, I have known Sheryl Young in many capacities. She has been my constituent, my colleague, my boss and, more significantly, my dear friend. Sheryl has been a loving role model to her daughter, Megan Viera, who, with Sheryl's support, has graduated from college and is ready to begin a life of her own.

Sheryl is at once kind, fun-loving and intensely driven. When you work with Sheryl, you work hard, but you also enjoy every minute of it.

Madam Speaker, please join me in thanking Sheryl Young for being a tenacious, spirited, inspired leader who, no doubt, lifts us all.

IN MEMORY OF MARSHALL
PARKER

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, on Saturday, November 15th, South Carolina lost a distinguished statesman with the death of former State Senator Marshall Parker of Oconee County.

A thoughtful tribute to his courageous service was published November 18, 2008, in The State newspaper of Columbia, South Carolina, professionally authored by John O'Connor.

[From The State, Nov. 18, 2008]

ONE OF FIRST ELECTED DEMOCRATS WHO
LATER RAN AS A REPUBLICAN DIES

(By John O'Connor)

Marshall Parker, who helped blaze a path for state Republicans in the 1960s, died at his Oconee County home Saturday. He was 86.

Parker was among the first elected Democrats to run later as a Republican, twice losing U.S. Senate contests against Ernest "Fritz" Hollings in 1966 and 1968.

Parker was born in Seaboard, N.C., but was first elected to the Seneca City Council and Oconee County Board of School Trustees before winning a state Senate seat in 1955. Parker served a decade in the S.C. House.

"He taught me about working hard," said grandson Burl Williams, who frequently mended fences at Parker's farm. "He had a presence...you could see people looked up to him."

In 1966, Parker decided to become a Republican and challenge friend and former colleague Hollings for the U.S. Senate seat left vacant by Olin Johnston's death. The race was decided by several thousand votes, with some of Parker's supporters believing he had won.

"If that race had gone another few weeks, (Parker) might have won it," said Crawford Cook, who worked on both Parker's and Hollings' campaigns. "There were none any tougher than that first one."

Parker believed his role in creating the state technical college system was his most important accomplishment, friends said. Others also credited him as an example for those switching to the Republican Party.

Williams believed that Parker, as a dairy farm owner, understood early that the Republican Party better matched his ideals.

"There were people who stood up and were candidates even though they couldn't win,"

said Crawford Clarkson, a former Parker campaign chairman. "He was a sterling individual; an absolutely incorruptible politician."

URGING THE NEW PRESIDENT TO SUPPORT THE BIPARTISAN SAFE COMMISSION ACT

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 20, 2008

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I have never been more concerned about the short- and long-term budget shortfalls we face as a Nation. These issues must be addressed simultaneously in a bipartisan way.

I share with our colleagues the letter I sent today to President-elect Barack Obama, urging him to adopt the SAFE Commission process as a way to provide a path toward a safe and secure economy for generations—a renaissance for America.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
WASHINGTON, DC, NOVEMBER 20, 2008.

Hon. BARACK OBAMA,
Office of the President-elect,
Chicago, IL.

DEAR PRESIDENT-ELECT OBAMA: As you prepare to take the oath of office as the 44th president of the United States, I want to congratulate you on your historic election, which has reminded the nation that America is indeed a land of boundless opportunity.

I write today because you face enormous challenges of change in building an administration in a time of economic turmoil and financial crisis for the American people. As syndicated columnist Robert Samuelson recently wrote, "The great project of the next president is to improve the economy's stability without subverting its vitality."

Recent congressional action aimed at shoring up the nation's financial system and restoring the flow of credit to help folks keep their homes or small businesses, get student loans or car loans, and protect the value in their retirement accounts I believe addresses only a symptom of a far greater financial crisis on the horizon. I voted for the financial rescue plan because I believed that immediate action was critical to restore confidence and stability in the Nation's financial system. I remain deeply concerned, however, not only by the debt burden nearing \$11 trillion, but also by the mounting deficit spending, predicted to reach \$1 trillion this fiscal year alone.

You are inheriting not only a short-term deficit and debt problem, but a looming long-term crisis former Comptroller General David Walker has characterized as "a financial tsunami that could swamp our ship of state." Mr. Walker, of course, is referring to the current \$53 trillion in unfunded obligations promised through Medicare, Social Security, and other entitlement programs which have skyrocketed from about one-third of the federal budget in 1965 to nearly two-thirds today. As if that amount were not difficult enough to comprehend, it is expected that when the new total is released in mid-December, it is likely to be over \$56 trillion. That means in just a year, spurred by soaring health care costs and retiring baby boomers, our Nation's unfunded commitments have jumped another \$3 trillion. It's noteworthy that the obligation of Medicare alone is 50 times the \$700 billion rescue bill.

I believe both short- and long-term budget shortfalls must be addressed simultaneously.

Yet I fear this daunting task is only part of the immense challenges of change our nation faces. I also continue to be alarmed that America is losing its competitive edge in the world economy. Once bustling U.S. cities and towns that were home to industrial and manufacturing bases are shuttered and crumbling.

On a drive across the old cast iron bridge linking downtown Trenton, New Jersey, with Morrisville, Pennsylvania, you will read the outdated slogan etched in rusted letters, "Trenton Makes, the World Takes." There was a time when Trenton made the steel used for the world's longest suspension bridges, its cars, and farm tools. But Trenton, like so many other U.S. centers of domestic manufacturing, today is a shell of its past. The slogan today could be, "The World Makes and America Takes."

And it's not only America's competitive edge that is dulling. The United States has always been the world's innovation leader, but we graduate half the number of physicists that we did in 1956—before Sputnik spurred America's last "great awakening" in science and engineering. I worry that the National Science Foundation reported that in 2004 China and India graduated 950,000 engineers compared to a meager 70,000 in the United States, and one-third to a half of those we graduate with science and engineering degrees are foreign students, and most will return to their home countries rather than applying their skills in the U.S. I worry that U.S. patents are down. I worry that our companies are spending more on tort litigation than on research and development.

How will we remain competitive, how will we rebuild our manufacturing base, how will our children compete in the global marketplace with the tsunami of mandatory spending obligations coming closer to our shores and the national debt racing past \$10 trillion? As the rate of mandatory spending grows, discretionary spending used to meet the needs and challenges of future generations shrinks. What will we tell our children when we can't afford to pay for a first-class education? Where will we find the money to rebuild the nation's infrastructure and transportation systems? What hope do we provide for American families touched by health care concerns and battling devastating diseases when we don't have funds for medical research to find cures for cancer, Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, and autism? Not only is this unacceptable, I believe it raises serious moral questions. Is it right for one generation to live very well knowing that its debts are being passed on to its children and grandchildren?

Routinely increasing the amount of money the government can borrow without taking any action to stem the country's growing debt has been standard operating procedure in Congress. But the storm warning signs have been posted. Standard and Poor's Investment Service has projected that the U.S. could lose its triple-A bond rating as early as 2012, while Moody's delays its projection to 2018. It's hard to believe that the United States of America could be such a poor investment risk that it is poised to lose its gold standard rating.

As our nation's financial outlook erodes, we also are mortgaging the economic opportunity of future generations to countries like China and Saudi Arabia, two of the largest holders of U.S. debt. You may have seen The Washington Post report earlier this week that China now owns nearly \$1 out of every \$10 in U.S. public debt. Are we willing to allow China—a country that persecutes its own people because of their faith—or Saudi Arabia—which breeds the kind of radical ideology that led to the terrorist attacks on our country—to own what genera-

tions of Americans have worked so hard to build for their children and grandchildren? This is the same China linked to cybersecurity attacks on the computer systems in congressional offices and committees, in federal agencies and even at the White House.

How do we respond to these challenges of change? Where do we start? I bring to your attention one plan already in place. It has attracted the support of 111 bipartisan members of the House of Representatives and newspapers and think tanks across the political spectrum. I believe it is an idea upon which you can build with bold, courageous and bipartisan leadership.

Democrat Rep. Jim Cooper of Tennessee and I have teamed to offer legislation to create a national bipartisan commission to review the totality of our nation's financial future—entitlement spending, other federal spending and tax policy. This proposal differs significantly from other blue ribbon-type panels, however, because it has teeth and mandates action, similar to the base closing commission. After spending several months holding town hall meetings across the country, gathering comments and explaining the depths of America's current unsustainable financial problems, the commission will report back to Congress. The legislation requires Congress to vote up or down on the commission's recommended plan of action. The proposal is called the SAFE Commission—Securing America's Future Economy—and a companion effort has gained traction in the Senate.

While we have been encouraged with the support generated by the SAFE proposal, I have been disappointed that Congress continues to languish in the political divide while the financial tsunami edges closer. In 1968 songwriter Paul Simon wrote "The Boxer." You may recall its refrain: "Man hears what he wants to hear and disregards the rest." That could describe Congress's reaction, or lack thereof, to the financial crisis staring America square in the face. The American people deserve to know the truth, not just what we think they want to hear.

Your former colleague Senate Budget Chairman Kent Conrad, sponsor of the SAFE Commission idea in the Senate, said that he supported your candidacy because you are "somebody that reaches out to bring people together to get results," noting that "nobody is more responsible for that than the president of the United States. It starts at the top."

America is facing extraordinary challenges that call for extraordinary action. I worry about the future for my five children and 13 grandchildren and your two young children if we do not act now to make certain that America continues to be a land of boundless opportunity. I believe the SAFE concept can provide the outline of a plan that you as president could embrace in the 111th Congress which convenes in January. Enactment of the legislation setting up the commission during the first session next year would ensure a vote on the commission's recommendations during the second session in 2010. Your active support of the SAFE Commission effort in Congress would signal the critical immediacy of attacking this problem head on in the only way I believe it will be solved—by working together in a bipartisan way.

America is yearning for bipartisanship. With your leadership in reaching across the aisle of Congress to bring people together, I believe we can start down the path that will lead to a renaissance in America and ensure that the essential goodness of the United States endures.