

Straits neighbors in the areas of law enforcement, financial exchanges and travel.

Among other successes, President Ma's administration was able to have Taiwan removed from the Special 301 Watch List which is maintained by the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR). The removal shows Taiwan's commitment to preventing the importing and exporting of illegally pirated materials such as DVD's and CD's.

Madam Speaker, I would like to call these accomplishments and the successful first year of President Ma's administration to my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD.

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS
REALIGNMENT ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1089, the Veterans Employment Rights Realignment Act of 2009. I thank Representative HERSETH SANDLIN of South Dakota for her leadership on the issues of veteran employment and education, and I commend her for bringing this bill to the Floor today.

Members of the Armed Forces—including the National Guard and Reserves—serve our nation with selflessness and courage. They deserve our gratitude, and in these difficult economic times, I believe that means we must redouble our efforts to ensure they have full and fair access to employment after their service.

H.R. 1089 will remove bureaucratic hurdles for veterans in search of redress for discriminatory employment practices, and it will allocate new resources to the Office of Special Counsel—the federal investigative and prosecutorial agency tasked with protecting federal employees from prohibited personnel practices.

In 1994, Congress put in place a strong set of employment protections for service members and veterans in the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act. We need to enforce this law quickly and efficiently, and the Veterans Employment Rights Realignment Act of 2009 will help the Office of Special Counsel to do just that.

I was proud to support H.R. 1089 when it was considered by the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and I am pleased to support this bill on the House floor today. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for this important legislation to protect service members and veterans from inappropriate employment practices.

TRIBUTE TO THE 203RD MILITARY
POLICE BATTALION

HON. PARKER GRIFFITH

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 203rd Military Police Battalion of Athens, Alabama. On June 21st, the 203rd

Battalion will depart for Fort Bliss to train before leaving for Iraq.

The 203rd Military Police Battalion has provided community service support to the Athens Retired Seniors Volunteer Program (RSVP) for more than a decade, specifically with the annual RSVP Picnic in the Park. Without their assistance, this special event for RSVP volunteers would not be possible. The Picnic in the Park will be especially meaningful this year as the 203rd prepares to deploy.

We enjoy our way of life and the freedoms we have because of groups like the 203rd Military Police Battalion. Their years of sacrifice on both local and national levels serve as an extraordinary example of leadership for us all.

Madam Speaker, I wish to express my extreme gratitude for the 203rd Military Police Battalion's service to my district and to honor them as they leave home in defense of our Nation.

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH INTILE

HON. BILL PASCRELL JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the work of an outstanding individual, Chief Joseph Intile, who is being recognized May 20, 2009 on the occasion of his retirement as Chief of the Bloomfield, NJ Fire Department, after thirty years of dedicated service.

It is only fitting that he be honored in this, the permanent record of the greatest democracy ever known, because he is the embodiment of the patriotism and community spirit that make our nation so great.

Chief Intile joined the Bloomfield Fire Department on March 27, 1979 and since then has brought much distinction to the department and to his position. Most notably, he guided the Bloomfield Fire Department in becoming the first Fire Department in the northeastern United States to achieve international accreditation from the Center for Public Safety Excellence, Commission of Fire Accreditation.

Chief Intile is one of the most decorated and honored Fire Chiefs in the State of New Jersey. He holds a Masters of Administrative Science from Fairleigh Dickinson University and is a graduate of the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

He is a member of several highly respected professional organizations, such as the National Fire Protection Association,

International Association of Fire Chiefs, National Society of Executive Fire Officers, National Fire Academy Alumni Association, New Jersey Career Fire Chiefs Association, and the New Jersey State Fire Chiefs Association as well as many others including my own Congressional Public Safety Advisory Committee.

During his tenure in the Bloomfield Fire Department, Chief Intile achieved Executive Fire Officer status from the National Fire Academy and Chief Fire Officer Designation from the Commission on Fire Officer Designation. He has attained Fire Official, Fire Inspector, and Incident Management Level 3 ranks from the New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice. He has received five Live Saving Awards from the Township of Bloomfield, three Public Safety

Awards from the John I. Crecco Foundation, as well as recognition from the New Jersey General Assembly, the Essex County Board of Freeholders, and the New Jersey State Senate.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to being able to acknowledge great Americans like Chief Joseph Intile.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Joseph's family and friends, the members of the Bloomfield Fire Department, all those who have been touched by him, and me in recognizing the outstanding contributions of Chief Joseph Intile to his profession and his community.

HONORING DOS PUEBLOS HIGH
SCHOOL ENGINEERING ACADEMY
AND THEIR ROBOTICS TEAM,
THE D'PENGUINEERS

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to commend my constituents at the Dos Pueblos High School Engineering Academy in Goleta, CA.

After rigorous study of engineering, science, math and other subjects, thirty-two high school seniors in this program came together to form a Robotics team called the D'Penguineers.

This group of talented students won two regional competitions and competed last month in the International For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) Robotics Challenge in Atlanta, Georgia and won the coveted Motorola Quality Award which is given to the best-designed robot in the competition.

In only six weeks, these impressive high school students built a robot with the ability to remove 40-inch diameter balls from a 6½-foot tall overpass, drive along a prescribed path, and maneuver the balls into position with each pass under or over the underpass on each lap.

Madam Speaker, the Dos Pueblos Engineering Academy and the success of the D'Penguineers exemplifies what motivated students can do with support from their families, teachers and community.

To build on the success of these students, we must continue to prioritize science education and funding, not only throughout the South and Central Coasts but across the country as well.

With research performed by these students and others equally committed to the scientific community, our country will lead the world with new solutions for clean energy and more efficient technology.

I am proud to represent these gifted high school seniors, their dedicated instructors, and the entire Dos Pueblos High School community in Congress.

I am sure this esteemed achievement is indicative of many further successes for these intelligent young people.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, on Monday, May 18, 2009, I was excused from a series of three rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on all three measures.

These measures were: H. Res. 300, a resolution congratulating Camp Dudley YMCA of Westport, New York, on the occasion of its 125th anniversary, introduced by Mr. McHUGH of New York; S. 386, the Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act of 2009, as amended, introduced by Senator LEAHY of Vermont; and H. Res. 442, a resolution recognizing the importance of the Child and Adult Care Food Program and its positive effect on the lives of low income children and families, introduced by Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California.

SUPPORTING NATIONAL CHILD AWARENESS MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 18, 2009

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I stand in strong support of House Resolution 438, a bipartisan resolution which expresses the sense of the U.S. House of Representatives that National Child Awareness Month should be established in the month of September.

September is traditionally “back-to-school” month, a time when families focus on preparing children for the coming school year. Recognizing September as National Child Awareness Month will heighten the American public’s attentiveness to the importance of our children’s health, education, safety and character development through the ongoing efforts of the numerous organizations and individuals who help to protect and nurture them. With this resolution we express our support for a month-long effort to recognize the importance of children in our society as they grown into responsible citizens.

It is widely recognized that a strong, supportive family unit is the most important factor in the well-being of a child. Unfortunately there is no guarantee that every child will have a support system to depend on. Thankfully there are many organizations that provide for the most disadvantaged children in communities across the country. Even children with solid support systems benefit from youth-serving organizations which enrich their lives through activities such as sports, the arts, philanthropy and further education outside of the classroom.

I would like to extend my sincerest appreciation to the 69 bipartisan cosponsors and to the gentlelady from Orange County, the lead sponsor, LORETTA SANCHEZ, for her efforts on behalf of this resolution. In addition I would like to extend a special thanks to the Education and Labor Committee for moving the bill quickly. It is my hope that Senators FEINSTEIN and BURR will quickly pass a companion resolution in the Senate chamber and that

President Obama will by Presidential Proclamation, designate September as National Child Awareness Month so that the many child-focused programs of the federal government might also be highlighted.

Most importantly, I commend the many local and national youth-serving organizations and charities dedicated to the well-being of children across the nation and the world.

INTRODUCING THE NATIONAL AMUSEMENT PARK RIDE SAFETY ACT OF 2009

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, Memorial Day is the beginning of the season when many American families take their children to our amusement parks for a day of fun and sun. Most Americans, when they enter an amusement park, believe that the rides at these parks are subject to oversight by the nation’s top consumer safety watchdog—the Consumer Product Safety Commission, CPSC. However, this is, unbelievably, not the case. Since 1981, a “Roller Coaster Loophole” has been carved out of the Consumer Product Safety Act.

This loophole is a dangerous gap in child safety and injury prevention, and it is having serious consequences. Between 1987 and 2004, the CPSC reports that there were 3,400 amusement park ride-related accidents and deaths. This estimate is likely lower than the actual number of injuries, due to the CPSC’s lack of authority over fixed-site rides.

It is time to act on the words of President Obama when he called for us to, “do more to protect the American public—especially our nation’s children—from being harmed by unsafe products.”

It is time to put the safety of our children first—it is time to close the Roller Coaster Loophole.

Today, I am re-introducing the National Amusement Park Safety Act, to restore safety oversight to a largely unregulated industry and protect our nation’s children.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, unfortunately I missed recorded votes on the House floor on Tuesday, May 19, 2009. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall vote No. 270 (Motion to Suspend the rules and Agree to H.R. 1089), “nay” on rollcall vote No. 271 (Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to S. 896), “yea” on rollcall vote No. 272 (Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 360).

SMALL BUSINESS AID BILL

HON. BETSY MARKEY

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Ms. MARKEY of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support the Small Business Assistance in Debt Bill (Small Business AID Bill). The Small Business AID Bill will expand the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) 504 loan program to be used to refinance conventional, non-SBA loans. This bill will permit small business owners to access capital and tap into equity that is locked in their commercial real estate due to the financial and banking crisis. Market conditions have changed and are making it harder for small businesses to gain access to capital to continue investing in and expanding their businesses. My bill reduces risk to banks from conventional, non-SBA loans on their balance sheets while simultaneously infusing cash into the banking system. This change will not require additional taxpayer support or an additional Congressional allocation, since this program is self-supporting.

Many small businesses have been hamstrung by today’s economic conditions. Due to changes in the banking industry’s ability and willingness to lend, small businesses are being squeezed out of capital markets. Banks, like most Americans, have been forced to tighten their belts; and banks have had to limit access to capital. With a lack of available capital, small businesses, the economic engine of America, are in crisis. Within the next year, approximately \$2.5 billion in commercial loans will come due. Many banks will not be willing or able to renew these loans for small businesses, many whom will be unable to raise the necessary financing to survive. Other small businesses are being forced to stay in loans that are higher than today’s current interest rates. Small businesses need another means to refinance their loans to weather this financial storm and potentially expand through new capital. By allowing SBA-backed lenders to extend financing small businesses will be able to: acquire land, construct buildings, or purchase equipment and collateralize fixed assets, avoid prepayment penalties, financing fees, and other costs. Small businesses will receive these benefits while obtaining better loan terms and lower interest rates for existing debt.

A good way to illustrate how my bill works may be helpful to my colleagues: Acme Company owns a building that an appraiser values at \$100,000. Acme owes \$70,000 on the building to their local bank. Due to the economic and financial crises bank regulators require the bank to downgrade their loans with Acme. The bank severely restricts or eliminates Acme’s line of credit. The absence of the line of credit causes a very real hardship, impacting Acme’s cash flow. With the inability to manage cash, Acme is severely impacted and encounters problems with operating day-to-day. While Acme has equity in their building, their bank cannot and would not allow them to access this equity due to the downgraded borrower status. With my bill, the SBA would be able to offer a new 504 loan to Acme for up to \$40,000 (since the bill limits lending up to 40% of the value of the property). With this new load, Acme would be able