

A USDOT report, Freight Transportation: Improvements and the Economy, estimates the cost of carrying freight on the highway system at between \$25 and \$200 an hour. Unexpected delays can increase the cost of transporting goods by 50 to 250 percent.

I believe that is crucial for our nation to have a dedicated source of funding to keep our nation's freight network globally competitive. Therefore, I am introducing the National Freight Network Trust Fund Act of 2014 that would direct 5 percent of all import duties collected by Customs and Border Protection (CBP) at Ports of Entry to be spent on freight transportation. This is at no new cost to a business or taxpayer as it uses the funds our CBP officials are collecting at the border as freight enters our nation.

This legislation would create the National Freight Network Trust Fund as an off-budget trust fund to only serve the roads of the National Freight Network and those roads and rail that connect the Network to Ports of Entry.

It would also create a dedicated funding source at no new cost to the public by depositing 5 percent of all import duties collected by CBP and place these funds in the National Freight Network Trust Fund. Five percent of import duties would deposit roughly \$1.9 billion in the Trust Fund every year at our current rate of imports.

The legislation would also direct the Secretary of Transportation to work in accordance with the National Freight Strategic Plan to identify improvements to the National Freight Network, on-dock rail, and roads and rail that connect the Network to Ports of Entry, which show the greatest need in providing for the movement of freight and goods across the United States. It would also provide grants at the Secretary's discretion to State, regional and local transportation authorities to make freight network improvements.

This bill will infuse billions back into the economy every year, help create good paying American jobs and keep our nation's ports strong and globally competitive.

This is a win for our ports and for our nation's economy. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING COMMAND SERGEANT
MAJOR FRANK WICKS

HON. CHRISTOPHER P. GIBSON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2014

Mr. GIBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the retirement of Command Sergeant Major Frank Wicks. Command Sergeant Major Wicks has served the people of New York and the United States admirably throughout his career. He will be missed.

Born in Troy, New York, Command Sergeant Major Wicks entered the Army in November 1982 and attended Basic Training in Fort Dix, New Jersey, and advanced individual training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina.

His assignments include the 205th Support Group, 2nd Battalion 105th Infantry, Headquarters 42nd Infantry Division, Company A 204th Engineer Battalion, Headquarters 1st Battalion, 105th Infantry, 2nd Battalion 106th Regiment, 1st Battalion 108th Infantry, Headquarters 27th Brigade Combat Team, and

Headquarters 53rd Troop Command. His Command Sergeant Major assignments include 2nd Battalion 106th Regiment, 2nd Battalion 108th Infantry in Utica, NY, 27th Infantry Brigade in Syracuse, NY, and the 53rd Troop Command, Valhalla, NY.

Command Sergeant Major Wicks has served in every leadership position from Team Leader to Command Sergeant Major. He has also served as an Instructor at the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy. In October 2003, CSM Wicks mobilized and deployed as the 2nd Battalion 108th Infantry and Task Force Hunter Command Sergeant Major to the Sunni Triangle, Iraq, serving as the Senior Noncommissioned Officer in the conduct of combat and stability operations of the Task Force during Operation Iraqi Freedom II.

His military education includes all four Noncommissioned Officers Development Courses culminating in his graduation from the Sergeants Major Academy in June of 2002. Command Sergeant Major Wicks has earned a Bachelor of Science in Organizational Management from NYACK College.

Command Sergeant Major Wicks' awards and decorations include: Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (with bronze oak leaf cluster), Army Commendation Medal (with 2 bronze oak leaf clusters), Army Achievement Medal (with bronze oak leaf cluster), Good Conduct Medal (2nd Award), Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal (with 4 bronze oak leaf clusters), National Defense Service Medal (2nd Award), Global War on Terror Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terror Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal ("M" device 4th award, bronze hourglass), the NCO Professional Development Ribbon (with numeral 4), Army Service Ribbon, Army Reserve Components Overseas Training Ribbon, and the Combat Infantry Badge.

Yet, Command Sergeant Major Wicks' career is much more than a list of accolades. While those are important and serve as a testament to his knowledge, drive, and continual self-improvement, more important are the lives across New York, the United States, and the world that Command Sergeant Major Wicks' has impacted for the better. On behalf of all those individuals, directly or indirectly, impacted by Command Sergeant Major Wicks throughout his career I express my deepest appreciation for his leadership and wish him and his family the best in their next endeavor.

HONORING RAYMOND HARRY
GANTZ

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2014

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, communities find their strength in the dedicated individuals who offer their time and energy to benefit the public good. For the Yonkers community, Raymond Harry Gantz personified that strength and dedication for decades.

Ray was born to Ellen White and Harry R. Gantz in 1944. Following high school and college, he spent a few years serving his country in the Naval Reserve, stationed in the Great Lakes, and started a wonderful family. After leaving the service, Ray pursued a career in

sales, where his bubbly personality and gift of gab helped him sell everything from insurance to vitamins to Avon products.

Upon retiring, Ray decided to once again serve the public good by dedicating his time to several community organizations and groups in Yonkers. He served as Vice President of the Yonkers African American Heritage Committee; Board Member of the Nepperhan Community Center; Member of the Terrace City Lodge #1499 Senior Group #9; and Board Member and Advisor of Jefferson Terrace Resident Council Association.

A doting and proud grandfather, Ray could always be found with a smile on his face and a joke ready, products of his overall happy disposition. He stayed busy in retirement beyond his community work, returning in recent years to sales where he tried his hand at being a vendor at various flea markets, festivals and craft fairs.

Sadly, Ray passed away on June 7, 2014 at the age of 69, surrounded by the friends and family he loved so, all of whom he touched in some special way. Although he is gone, the legacy Ray has left and the work he did to better his community will live forever, and I am proud to honor him and his life here today.

RECOGNIZING PROPHETSTOWN,
ILLINOIS

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2014

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the people of Prophetstown, Illinois, on the one year anniversary of the tragic fire that destroyed over half of their historic downtown.

The massive fire destroyed eight buildings and damaged two others in a blaze that took two dozen first responders hours to put out.

While this fire was devastating, seeing the people of Prophetstown come together in its aftermath has been truly inspiring.

They rallied together behind the town slogan "Prophetstown Strong" and worked together to support the individuals and businesses who were impacted by this tragedy.

On July 15, they will again come together to recognize the first responders who saved a woman's life one year ago and to break ground for a new building in their historic downtown.

I am honored to recognize the people of Prophetstown today and to represent them in Congress each and every day. They truly demonstrate the best of what a community can accomplish by working together.

RECOGNIZING THE UNIVERSITY OF
ROCHESTER'S LABORATORY FOR
LASER ENERGETICS

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 14, 2014

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that H.R. 4923, the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2015, provided \$68 million for the University of Rochester's Laboratory for Laser