

It is important to note, that, as a member of the Agriculture Subcommittee on Dairy, Livestock, and Poultry, I am pleased with some aspects of USDA's proposed rule, and I commend Secretary Glickman and the USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service for their hard work in attempting to create a consensus reform package on this issue. However, I remain concerned with the Option 1B proposal, as do a majority of my colleagues, and I look forward to working with USDA to resolve this issue.

I urge my colleagues to support the FMMO reform extension, and oppose any efforts to strike this important provision from the FY99 Agriculture Appropriations Bill.

TRIBUTE TO PETER O'NEIL UPON
HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ANNE M. NORTHUP

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 1998

Mrs. NORTHUP. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize a constituent of mine from the Louisville area. His name is Peter O'Neil. Mr. O'Neil recently retired from the United Parcel Service where his leadership in the area of aviation security helped to make our skies safer for everyone. Even though working for an all-cargo airline, Mr. O'Neil served as Chairman of the Air Transport Association's Security Committee and worked to bring industry consensus on how to respond to security threats. Mr. O'Neil distinguished himself here in Washington, working with the Federal Aviation Administration and the Department of Transportation. I would like to thank Peter O'Neil for his dedicated service to our country and wish him and his wife Robin a happy retirement.

THANK YOU TO THE CREW OF AIR-
CRAFT CARRIER THE "JOHN C.
STENNIS"

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 1998

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, today the men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces stand guard in defense of our vital interests in the Persian Gulf. These dedicated men and women stand ready to respond to the latest crisis in the Middle East with the most advanced and capable weapons systems available. A few months ago as the United States prepared to strike Iraq, the news media flooded the airwaves with stories about our military personnel in the Gulf. After the crisis, the media left but thousands of our soldiers, sailors and airmen remained—on guard and at their posts.

One of the most difficult assignments in the Gulf is service at sea aboard the many naval vessels that ensure that the U.S. retains a unilateral ability to defend our interests in a crisis. Much of the work is long, tedious and boring but let us make no mistake about it—the fate of the world's economy and our national security depend on these men and women in uniform.

I want to invite my colleagues to take this opportunity to thank the men and women of our armed services who are currently serving in the Gulf for their dedication to duty and their commitment to their country. I also want to send a specific thank you to the crew of the U.S.S. *John C. Stennis* (CVN 74) who form the backbone of our commitment to Gulf security. Under the able leadership of the Battlegroup Commander, RADM Ralph Suggs, the ship's Commanding Officer, Captain Douglas Roulstone, and the Executive Officer, CDR Wade Tallman, our newest aircraft carrier and pride of the fleet is the reason why Saddam Hussein and the Iraqi leadership are kept at bay. These Navy leaders took a brand new ship and crew and welded them into a team that is now a cornerstone in our nation's security.

A member of my staff recently served with this crew as they prepared for the Gulf. He reminded me that long after CNN and the other networks left the Gulf, our people in the nation's sea service remained on duty in the Gulf. While I cannot read the names of the whole crew, I wanted to send a special thank you from the Congress to the ship's intelligence staff who are the eyes and ears of the Battlegroup, watching any threat which may intend harm for America and her allies. In specific, I want to thank the following sailors for their service:

CDR Paula L. Moore, LCDR William P. Hamblet, LCDR Cecil R. Johnson, LT Claudio C. Biltot, LT Wayne S. Grazio, LT Constance M. Greene, LT Amy L. Halin, LT Michael C. McMahon, LT Michael S. Prather, LTJG Jason S. Alznauer, LTJG Kwame O. Cooke, LTJG Joe A. Earnst, LTJG Ben H. Eu, LTJG Neil A. Harmon, LTJG Kevin J. McHale, LTJG Alexander W. Miller, LTJG Eric C. Mostoller, LTJG Kevin E. Nelson, LTJG John M. Schmidt, ENS Curtis D. Dewitt, ENS Joseph M. Spahn, CW02 Robert G. Stephens, ISCS(SW) Mary B. Buzuma, CTIC Andrea C. Elwyn, CTRC(SW/AW) Leroy Dowdy, ISC Nancy A. Heaney, PHC(AW) Troy D. Summers, CTO1 William L. Beitz, IS1 Janice E. Bevel, CTR1 Theresa L. Covert, CTR1 Charlene Duplanter, PH1 Lewis E. Everett, CTA1 Jennifer L. Fojtik, IS1 Matthew E. Hatcher, CMT1(SW) Susan C. Kehner, IS1(AW) Kevin E. King, CTT1 John E. Schappert, CTT1 Marx A. Warren, CTR1(SW/AW) Kevin R. Webb, PH1(AW) James M. Williams, CTR2 Francis E. Algers, IS2 Zachary C. Alyea, PH2 Clinton C. Beaird, IS2 Brandon G. Brooks, DM2 Chad A. Dulac, IS2 Sean M. Fitzgerald, PH2(AW) Brain D. Forsmo, CTRA2 Sarah A. Fuselier, IS2 Brent L. George, IS2 Richard M. Gierbolini, IS2 Christopher S. Holloman, CTR2 Kevin J. Hubbard, PH2 Leah J. Kanak, CT12(NAC) Paula C. Keefe, IS2 Angel Morales, IS2 Matthew W. Nace, CT12(NAC) Eric S. Newton, CTO2 Milton T. Pritchett, IS2 Richard J. Quinn, IS2 Lee E. Redenbo, CTR2 Michael A. Santichi, IS2 Bryan S. Stanley, IS2 Mark A. Szygula, PH2(AW) Jadye A. Theobald, CT12 Sarah A. Vogel, PH3(SW) Robert M. Baker, IS3 Gere L. Beason, IS3 Michael J. Barrencea, PH3 Richard J. Brunson, CTO3 Michael H. Buxton, PH3 Jomo K. Coffea, IS3 Terry D. Cooper, IS3 Trinity A. Durrell, CTR3 Angel Garay-Guzman, CTR3 George W. Hall, PH3 Sandra Harrison, CTO3 Yacha C. Hodge, IS3 Mark T. Kenny, CTT3 David E. Kozacek, PH3 Michael L. Larson, PH3(SW) Stephen E. Massone, CT13 Dennis M. Paquet, IS3 Christopher P.

Petrofski, IS3 Christopher D. Ross, IS3 John C. Shirah, CTT3 Gus Smalls, PH3 Alicia C. Thompson, CMT3 Jonathan R. Thompson, PH3 Kevin R. Tidwell, CTR3 Malina N. Townsend, IS3 William T. Tyre, CTR3 Thomas J. Wilgus, PH3 Robin R. Williams, ISSN Samuel J. Abernathy, PHAN Emily A. Baker, ISSN Kevin L. Bolden, CTRSN Stacey L. Bowman, ISSN Daniel F. Cady, ISSN Charles E. Fischer, ISSN Gene H. Gregory, ISSN Stephen W. Hedrick, AN Thomas E. Kossman, CTOSN Melissa A. Oliver, PHAN Jamie Snodgrass, ISSN Michael D. Spiller, ISSN Arther C. Twyman, ISSN Travis L. Veal, PHAR James A. Farraly, and PHAR Quinton D. Jackson.

In August, we plan to welcome these dedicated sailors and their crewmates back to the United States at their new home port in San Diego, California. Until then and on behalf of the Congress, I want to extend our thanks to the crew of the *John C. Stennis* and their families for their pride, service and dedication to their country. Godspeed and come home safely.

COMMENDING THE GARY, INDIANA
NAACP

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 1998

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to commend the members of the Gary, Indiana, branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Tonight, June 25, 1998, the Gary NAACP will hold its thirty-fifth annual Life Membership Banquet and Scholarship Diner at St. Timothy community Church, in Gary.

This annual event is a major fundraiser for the Gary branch of the NAACP. The funds generated through this activity, and others like it, go directly to the organization's needed programs and advocacy efforts. In addition, the dinner serves to update and keep the community aware of the activities, accomplishments, and accolades of the local and national chapters of the NAACP on an annual basis. This year's banquet will feature the branch's own Dr. Randall C. Morgan, Jr., a resident of Valparaiso, as the keynote speaker. Dr. Morgan, a second generation life member, has been a proud Golden Heritage Member of the NAACP for fifteen years, and he is the immediate past President of the National Medical Association.

Tonight, the Gary NAACP will honor seven of Northwest Indiana's finest leaders for their efforts to further equality in society. Joining more than five hundred outstanding civil, community, and religious leaders of the region, the following distinguished individuals will be inducted as life members of the Gary NAACP: Frances Boler, of Gary; Edward Evans, of Gary; Walter James, of Gary; Floyd Mask, of Gary; Gussie Mask, of Gary; Mozella Stone, of Gary; and James Thomas, of Munster. In addition, Richard Williams, of Gary, will be awarded a scholarship for his excellence as a student, an activist, and a leader. This four thousand dollar scholarship will help finance Richard's college education at a college or university of his choice.

The Gary NAACP was organized in 1915 by a group of residents that felt there was a need

for an organization that would monitor and defend the rights of African-Americans in Northwest Indiana. The national organization, of which the Gary branch is a member, focuses on providing better and more positive ways of addressing the important issues facing minorities in social and job-related settings. Like the national organization, the Gary branch of the NAACP serves its community by combating injustice, discrimination, and unfair treatment in our society.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Frances Boler, Edward Evens, Walter James, Floyd Mask, Gussie Mask, Mozella Stone, James Thomas, and Richard Williams, as well as the other members of the Gary NAACP, for the efforts, activities, and leadership that these outstanding men and women have utilized to improve the quality of life for all residents of Indiana's First Congressional District.

HELP RESTORE AMERICA'S RIGHT TO WORK

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 1998

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my colleagues a rare opportunity to be able to do what is right.

To stand up for the freedom of those who are forced to pay union dues against their will to keep their jobs, and at the same time to vote for legislation supported by nearly 80% of the American people. Congress created compulsory unionism with its power-grabbing National Labor Relations Act and Railway Labor Act. Coercive unionism has a crippling effect on our nation's competitiveness, preventing hard-working Americans from being as productive as they know how to be, destroying businesses and the jobs they provide, or sending those good jobs overseas.

Now, Congress can fix its mistake and free working Americans from this forced dues tyranny. H.R. 59, the National Right to Work Act, would end the forced payment of union dues or fees. Joining a labor union is a right and will remain so. But not joining a union should be a right as well.

I ask my colleagues to join me in support of H.R. 59 and I urge the leadership to bring it to the floor for a vote.

ZEKE FORLINI RECEIVES PIO ZAPAZODI CONGRESSIONAL AWARD

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 1998

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate, Mr. Zeke Forlini, one of my constituents, on receiving the Pio Zapazodi Congressional Award, recognizing his dedication to the EMS and firefighting community.

As co-chairman of the Congressional Fire Caucus and a former firefighter and chief, I have witnessed first hand the dedication of

many men and women to the community. However, there are some unique individuals whose service is heads about the rest. To recognize those individuals, Delaware County has established the Pio Zapazodi Congressional Award, named after a longtime, dedicated leader in the fire community in Upper Darby and the entire county.

Zeke is a leader in the local fire community and an individual I consider to be a close friend. In the early nineties, he helped to develop the Emergency Services Training Center in Folcroft, Pennsylvania. Using his own equipment from his own concrete business, Zeke donated countless hours and resources to the construction of the training center. His efforts and assistance played an important role in the timely opening of the center which is an important resource to the fire and EMS community of Delaware County. In addition to his time and money, Zeke has offered his guidance to the project, giving direction to many smaller projects at the center.

Zeke has seen the training center project through from beginning to end, going so far as to supply the refreshments for the dedication of the building. And when the future of the building was questionable, Zeke arranged the pouring of 185 yards of solid concrete for the foundation.

Zeke continues to be active in the emergency services community, dedicating much of his personal time to the Board of Fire and Life Safety. Mr. Speaker, this man's commitment to his community is truly an example for our entire region. His considerable generosity and genuine interest in the welfare of our county is only matched by the many well-deserved friends he has accumulated over the years. It is a fitting tribute that the entrance to the Emergency Services Training Center has been named "Zeke's Way." With his continual gifts of time, guidance, and friendship, it is evident that Zeke Forlini has earned the Pio Zapazodi Congressional Award.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Zeke Forlini for his selfless dedication to the fire community.

MILITARY RETIREE HEALTH CARE RELIEF ACT

HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 1998

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to introduce the Military Retiree Health Care Relief Act. This legislation will provide a refundable tax credit to all military retirees and their spouses for Medicare Part B monthly premiums, and it will waive the ten percent penalty for late enrollment in Medicare.

As we head into this Fourth of July recess, let us not forget why we are blessed with freedom and democracy in this country. The sacrifices made by those who served in the military are something that must never be overlooked. Promises were made to those who served in the Uniformed Services. They were told that their health care would be taken care of for life if they served a minimum of 20 years of active federal service.

Well, those military retirees served their time and expected the government to hold up its end of the bargain. They are now realizing

that these were nothing more than empty promises.

Those who served in the military did not let their country down in its time of need and we should not let military retirees down in theirs. It's time military retirees get what was promised to them and that's why I am introducing this legislation.

LEARNING WITH LAPTOPS

HON. FLOYD SPENCE

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 25, 1998

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, as the academic year comes to a close across our country, I rise to bring to the attention of the House the "Learning With Laptops" program, which is conducted by the Beaufort County School District in South Carolina. This impressive program makes it possible for sixth and seventh grade students to combine learning and technology by using laptop computers for classwork and homework. The Beaufort County School District is the largest public school system in the United States to participate in this innovative partnership with Microsoft and Toshiba. The pilot program was initiated during the 1996-1997 academic year, in which 330 sixth grade students were provided with laptop computers. In the 1997-1998 academic year, the program expanded to involve 1,325 sixth and seventh grade students, and it is anticipated that when the schools open in Beaufort County for the 1998-1999 academic year, that more than 2,000 sixth and seventh graders will be using laptop computers in most of their classes.

The "Learning With Laptops" program is based on a public/private partnership. The SchoolBook Foundation, a nonprofit organization, was formed to lease and subsidize the laptop computers for students. Through subsidies, all students are able to participate in the program, regardless of their financial circumstances. In fact, the majority of students who are participating in the program qualify for free or reduced price lunches.

Through the "Learning With Laptops" program, an enthusiasm about exploring new areas inside and outside of the classroom has been created. I have visited a classroom of the H.E. McCracken Middle School, where students demonstrated their skills and ingenuity in using laptop computers, and I was impressed with their ability to utilize this technology so effectively. By integrating laptop computers into the learning process through this model program the Beaufort County School District is leading our Nation into a new dimension of educational achievement.

Earlier this month, the "Learning With Laptops" program was highlighted among our country's technology innovators at a special symposium that was sponsored by the Smithsonian Institution. I would like to commend the Beaufort County School District on its efforts to put its motto of "Innovation Toward Excellence" into practice with such an outstanding program.