

few federal government officials who have made such a direct positive impact on the subject they manage.

The agency for which he worked, the Foreign-Trade Zones Board, is one of the smallest federal agencies in Washington, DC with only nine employees. It is so small that it does not have a line item in the federal budget. In 1968, zone projects existed in only 6 states and Puerto Rico and were very modest in size; today, Foreign-Trade Zones Board activity is in all 50 states and Puerto Rico. During his tenure at the Board, the Agency's zone projects increased from 9 in 1968 to 586 in 1997, a yearly growth rate of 221%; domestic merchandise receipts grew from \$18 million in 1968 to \$125.6 billion in 1996, an average yearly rate of 24.933%; and employment increased from 1,200 jobs in 1968 to 370,000 jobs in 1996, an average yearly rate of 1138%. There are few, if any, federal agencies with this growth record. John DaPonte deserves a thank you for managing an important U.S. trade program that grew rapidly over the last 30 years with very modest resources.

The Foreign-Trade Zone program is an economic development tool for communities providing financial assistance to many troubled U.S. industries, as well as to foreign-based firms interested in establishing U.S. production operations, by helping them be competitive in the global marketplace. Foreign-trade zones place U.S. production facilities on an equal footing with foreign operations. This benefit requires investment and jobs in the U.S. as opposed to another country. Industry groups become involved in the Foreign-Trade Zone Program in order to solve trade problems. Major industries involved in the program include shipbuilding, motor vehicles, oil refining, pharmaceuticals, information technology, etc.

The growth of the Foreign-Trade Zone Program required a very significant amount of effort by the staff of the Foreign-Trade Zones Board. The Foreign-Trade Zones Act or laws pertaining thereto were amended in the 1968 to 1997 period on thirteen (13) occasions. Mr. DaPonte implemented many new procedures at the Foreign-Trade Zones Board including Minor Boundary Modifications and Grant Restrictions to assist in managing the very rapid growth of the program in a balanced manner and without major funding or personnel. In 1968, 2 Applications for new projects were filed; in 1997, 85 Applications were filed. Board Orders approving new zone projects grew during the period from 3 Board Orders issued in 1968 to 78 Board Orders issued in 1997.

In order to effectively manage the development program, a wide range of Customs management changes were necessary. The Board supported these changes when it issued Board Order 103 on November 27, 1974, encouraging Customs to manage zone projects in a new and innovative manner. In 1981, the U.S. Customs Service published its first Foreign-Trade Zone Manual, which has been subsequently updated. In 1986, the U.S. Customs Service Regulations were totally rewritten to reflect the many necessary changes to the zone program. Special new procedures introduced to expedite activity included valuation of manufactured products, recognition of industry inventory methods, Customs audit management, direct delivery, daily CF 214s, and weekly entries.

In order to undertake its activities, the Foreign-Trade Zones Board actively interfaces

with a wide range of U.S. government agencies. Most importantly, was the Board's continuing involvement with state and local governmental organizations that carried out most zone activity. At a time when Washington is trying hard to empower states and localities, it would do well to look at the positive program developed under John DaPonte's leadership. The Foreign-Trade Zone Program, from the beginning, has been one that actively engaged states, counties, cities, and port authorities on a wide range of bases to encourage local economic development activities. Literally hundreds and thousands of meetings and reports and articles were written over the period that Mr. DaPonte was at the Foreign-Trade Zones Board on all of these issues.

It is clear that during John DaPonte's tenure at the Foreign-Trade Zones Board, the program experienced extraordinary growth. He managed this high level of growth effectively with extremely modest personnel and budget resources. No other Federal agency has created such a positive impact on our nation's balance of trade with such limited resources. John DaPonte's involvement in the Federal Government is a classic example of the federal government at its best. Today, we remember the positive contributions of John DaPonte in Washington, DC to U.S. trade. This Congress thanks him for his efforts and wishes him well in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO GARY SUDDUTH

HON. MARTIN OLAV SABO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 1998

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to acknowledge a great man from Minneapolis who was an outstanding leader in Minnesota's African American community. In honor of Black History Month, I would like to take this opportunity to once again pay tribute to Gary Sudduth, who died suddenly on July 28, 1997, at the young age of 44.

As we celebrate the final week of Black History Month, I thought it appropriate to resubmit my commemoration of the life of Gary Sudduth, who made a profound impact on the African American community as well as everyone who knew him. He is sadly missed. The following is my July, 1997 tribute to Gary.

Minnesota lost a passionate voice for social and economic justice when Gary Sudduth, the Minneapolis Urban League President, died suddenly on July 28, 1997, at age 44. His untimely death strikes a blow to the community and efforts to make our cities better places to live, work and learn.

For years, Gary's reputation as an effective force for social change was well-known, not only in Minnesota, but across the nation. In the process, he touched and improved the lives of millions.

Gary was born and raised on the North side of Minneapolis with his eight brothers and sisters. He continued to live there until his death. In 1977, he joined the Minneapolis Urban League, and I first knew him as the young, active director of its juvenile advocate program. Later, he became director of the Street Academy and then vice president of community outreach and advocacy programs. In 1992, Gary was named president and chief executive officer.

Throughout his tenure, Gary united people from all walks of life to focus on a common

goal—improving the social and economic conditions for people in urban areas. He knew how to negotiate with his adversaries and to prod his friends—all in the name of implementing policies that would revitalize cities and benefit their inhabitants. At the same time, he sought long-lasting solutions for problems, not quick fixes. Above all, he listened and he led, sustained by the belief that every problem had a solution.

Gary demanded fairness, excellence and accountability from the government, from our schools and from the legal system. He challenged the establishment and the status quo to accomplish the changes he saw necessary—all the while speaking out for minorities, the poor and for children. His moderating style and negotiating skills often brought calm, compromise and peace to Minneapolis at times when crisis and unrest threatened to destabilize it.

It will be difficult for the community to replace the talents and drive of Gary Sudduth, who made the work of the Urban League his mission. The way he lived his life was an example for us all—in fact it was his greatest asset. The city of Minneapolis, the state of Minnesota, and indeed the nation are better off for his commitment and his contributions. That is his enduring legacy. I hope his example has inspired a new generation of leaders and urban advocates who will try to emulate his life's work.

THE SKILLED WORKFORCE ENHANCEMENT ACT

HON. JAMES M. TALENT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 1998

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to make the point that as this Nation prepares for the 21st century, we are facing a severe shortage of skilled workers in the metalworking industry. For years we have relied on inefficient, big-government programs to train our workforce. This approach has obviously failed and the time has come to change.

The metalworking industry covers precision machinists, die makers, mold makers, as well as tool and die designers. These workers can make just about anything. They produce the parts that are shipped off to larger companies, such as Ford Motor Co. or Boeing, just to name a couple of examples. If you ask a person in the industry "What do you make?", he'll respond, "What do you want?" and proceed to produce your tailor-made products. These companies are the backbone of manufacturing in America. Without them, mass production of manufactured goods would not be possible. That is why it is imperative we act to help this industry recruit and train new skilled workers. Something must be done.

In my district in St. Louis, we have a large number of small precision machining plants. These plants have good jobs available at good pay but cannot find trained employees. The tax burdens placed on these small firms makes it nearly impossible for most of them to even consider taking on the high costs of training new workers themselves.

The Department of Labor estimates that the need for skilled labor in these trades is 2 percent annually of the current workforce. But with little new blood entering the industry, that percentage climbs to 5 percent when you take into account the aging factor. Indeed, the majority of workers in the industry are fast approaching retirement age.

If we fail to alleviate this shortage of skilled workers, we will soon see the Ford Motor Cos. and Boeings take their business overseas to foreign competitors who have sufficient labor, while American businesses just disappear.

On January 27, I introduced H.R. 3110, the Skilled Workforce Enhancement Act, to return power and resources back to these small business owners so that they can address their need for new skilled workers. My bill would allow these small shop entrepreneurs to train people in their own plants. Currently, such training is cost-prohibitive to most small businesses. H.R. 3110 would allow the employer to train an individual through an 8,000 hour, 4-year apprenticeship program and, after completion, the trainee would be hired on for at least 1 year. In exchange, the employer will receive a tax credit of up to 80 percent of the wages paid to the apprentice, starting after the 5th year, in 20 percent increments for 5 years. The newly trained employee will have already been paying taxes for 5 years before the employer begins to receive the credit.

We need to pass this bill because it will: I. Provide a needed incentive to have the people who know the industry train the next generation of skilled workers in the metalworking trades; II. shift the responsibility of training from the bureaucracy to the private sector; III. encourage us to keep jobs in this country rather than recruiting from overseas; and IV. give small business some much-needed tax relief.

I would like to thank my constituent, Mr. Bill Bachman, Sr. of Bachman Machine Co., Inc. of St. Louis, MO, for his research, hard work, and most of all, his persistence in getting this legislation introduced. It is a workable solution that he and Mike Mittler of Mittler Bros. Machine & Tool proposed to help solve a real, and increasingly urgent problem in their industry. I would also like to thank John Cox and Becky Anderson of the National Tooling and Machining Association for their assistance on this issue. And I thank my colleagues, Representatives RON PAUL (R-TX) and STEVEN LATOURETTE (R-OH) for being original cosponsors of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, we have people who need good jobs and good jobs waiting for the right people. Let's match them up. I urge all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to become a cosponsor of the Skilled Workforce Enhancement Act.

A TRIBUTE TO SANDY HUME

HON. TOM DeLAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 1998

Mr. DeLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an energetic, intelligent and gifted young man who tragically died over the weekend.

Sandy Hume was a rising star in the media world. An aggressive reporter, Sandy broke the biggest congressional story of the year in 1997, regarding the frictions in the House Republican leadership. I didn't always agree with Sandy's conclusions, but his reporting was first class.

I'll always remember Sandy, roaming the halls of the Congress, hanging out in the Speaker's lobby, getting insights from so many members of Congress. He had a gift for un-

derstanding the news business, and he had a knack for getting the story first.

Sandy Hume represented the best of the younger generation. He worked hard, but he didn't let hard work upset his perspective. He had an innate sense of right and wrong, an abounding sense of fairness and a healthy skepticism of the political class that served him well as a reporter.

Sandy's death is tragic. Our souls survive death, the Roman poet said, and we know that Sandy's soul lives on. But all of us who knew him will miss Sandy's spirit, his sense of humor, and his sense of mission.

I want to extend my deepest condolences to his family, including Sandy's father Brit and his wife Kim, Sandy's mother Clare, and Sandy's sister, Virginia.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE JUELANN K. CATHEY

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 1998

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Judge Juelann K. Cathey, who will be honored by the San Fernando Valley Bar Association for her many accomplishments throughout her career.

For over two decades, Juelann has dedicated her time and energy to our community through her work in the legal system. After graduating from the University of San Fernando Valley College of Law with honors, Juelann began her career as public defender in Colusa County. She was quickly promoted to Assistant District Attorney. Recognized for her hard work ethic and dedication, Juelann has continued to advance within the system. She now serves as the Los Angeles Municipal Court Commissioner.

Perhaps one attribute that colleagues find most refreshing is Juelann's ability to handle a stressful situation with humor. Though everyone is well aware of the seriousness of the issues she deals with on a daily basis, her grace under pressure puts everyone in the courtroom at ease. In addition, Juelann's ability to mediate situations successfully and her willingness to incorporate the ideas of others make her well respected among lawyers and her court staff.

These achievements are a testament not only to Juelann's dedication to her career, they also illustrate her strength of character and perseverance. Though Juelann is widely respected throughout our community for her demeanor in the courtroom, perhaps it is her personal strength and will to succeed which is so amazing. Widowed at the age of 28, Juelann was left to raise six young children on her own. Realizing that she needed to financially support her family, she decided to attend law school. Balancing school work and family was not easy, but Juelann excelled at both.

Booker T. Washington once said that, "Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which one has overcome while trying to succeed." Faced with a devastating personal tragedy, Juelann chose to move forward, making a life for her children and working to improve the social conditions within our community.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, please join me in paying tribute to Judge Juelann Cathey. She is truly a role model to those with whom she interacts, not only in the courtroom, but in the community as well.

CONGRESSMAN BENJAMIN A. GILMAN AWARDED COMMANDERS CROSS OF THE ORDER OF SERVICE OF THE POLISH REPUBLIC

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 1998

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call to the attention of my colleagues in this House the very high honor recently bestowed upon our colleague from New York, Congressman BENJAMIN A. GILMAN, the Chairman of the International Relations Committee. During a visit to Poland last month as head of a congressional delegation, Congressman GILMAN was presented with the Commanders Cross of the Order of Service of the Republic of Poland by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Boleslaw Geremek. The award was made at the direction of the President of the Republic of Poland, Aleksander Kwasniewski.

The Order of Service is given to foreigners and to Polish citizens permanently resident abroad for distinguished service in support of cooperation between nations. The Commanders Cross is awarded to distinguished political leaders and leaders in the fields of culture, art, and science. The order was created by the Sejm (the Polish Parliament) in 1992. Previous recipients of this honor include Dr. Henry Kissinger, our former Secretary of State.

The decision to decorate Congressman GILMAN with the Commanders Cross of the Order of Service is a most appropriate recognition of his activities in support of cooperation between the United States and Poland, as well as cooperation with Poland and other countries of Central and Eastern Europe in their desire to be admitted to NATO. As the Chairman of the Committee on International Relations in the 104th and 105th Congress (since 1995) and as the Ranking Member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs during the 103rd Congress (1993-1994), Congressman GILMAN was one of the leaders in the Congress in encouraging the expansion of NATO to encompass the newly democratic countries of Central and Eastern Europe, including Poland. Legislation that he introduced has provided important authorities to the Administration permitting the provision of assistance to these countries which have been proposed for membership in NATO, and the strong support in Congress for Congressman GILMAN's legislation has been an important indicator of Congressional support for NATO expansion.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues in the Congress to join me in extending congratulations and best wishes to BEN GILMAN for his receiving this most appropriate recognition of his outstanding contribution to the excellent relations between the United States and Poland.