

the U.S. economy. That means jobs in small towns and rural areas. Without the assurance that this incentive is in place, it would be extremely difficult for producers and investors to plan for the future. Ethanol has value beyond just the agriculture economy, it also has important environmental benefits that Congress should continue to encourage.

I recently hand-delivered 850 letters from my constituents to Speaker GINGRICH asking him to continue his support of the ethanol tax incentives. I am pleased the Speaker expressed his strong support for these incentives and consequently expect that support to carry through the conference process on this bill.

Finally, I would like to commend the Chairman and the rest of the House leadership, including Speaker GINGRICH and Majority Leader ARMEY, for heeding the call of the rank and file to schedule consideration of this bill prior to the upcoming district work period. For a time, it appeared Congress would have attempted to go home without considering this measure. As my colleagues know, however, the current extension of ISTEA is set to expire on April 30. Seeing this deadline on the horizon, I joined Mrs. EMERSON of Missouri and Mr. PEASE of Indiana in circulating a letter among our colleagues pledging our intention to vote against adjournment later today if H.R. 2400 has not been considered. Over 100 signatures were gathered in a matter of just a few hours. The issue has both national and local support. Letting yet another deadline pass on federal highway programs would have been more than the South Dakota Department of Transportation, the contractors of South Dakota, and most importantly, the motorists of my State could bear. Hopefully, such an occurrence will be avoided with today's action.

In light of these factors, I intend to vote in favor of passage as I did in subcommittee and full committee consideration. Again, I thank Chairman SHUSTER, Ranking Member OBERSTAR, Subcommittee Chairman PETRI, and Subcommittee Ranking Member RAHALL for their hard work and dedication to bringing truth and honesty to our federal surface transportation programs.

A CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE AND TIMES OF LIONEL HAMPTON

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 1998

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lionel Hampton, a great artist, a great American, a great ambassador, and one of the greatest musicians America has ever known.

In tribute to Lionel Hampton, on this his 90th birthday, I would like to share with you and this House, some of the highlights of this extraordinary man.

Lionel Hampton, the reigning King of the Vibraphone for over half-a-century, and one of the few surviving internationally renowned jazz talents of the swing era, was born in Birmingham, Alabama on April 20, 1908. He was a member of the Benny Goodman Quartet which was the first racially integrated group of jazz musicians in the nation, but left the group to form his own big band in the early 40s.

His original ballad, "Midnight Sun", written with Johnny Mercer and Sonny Burke, has be-

come an American jazz and popular classic. His two major symphonic works, "The King David Suite" and "Blues Suite" have been performed by many leading symphonic orchestras throughout the world.

Nevertheless, whether you are familiar with his musical accomplishments, over the years, Lionel Hampton has known no status where he was not eagerly accepted, as he has been well received the world over by Presidents, politicians, Kings and Queens. His very music has caused the walls of communist nations to come tumbling down.

Allow me now to share with you Lionel Hampton the constituent . . . the friend . . . the community leader. His fame and greatness have not let him forget the homeless and the hopeless. Long a supporter of public housing, he developed the Lionel Hampton Houses in the early 70s, and upon completion, built the Gladys Hampton Houses, named for his late wife. To this day, those projects are considered among the best in the nation.

The Lionel Hampton Community Development Corporation has built more than 500 low and moderate-income apartments in my Congressional District of Harlem alone.

Lionel Hampton holds more than fifteen honorary doctorates and received the Gold Medal of Paris, its highest cultural award, from its Mayor, Jacques Shirac.

He was appointed to the Board of Trustees of the Kennedy Center in 1991 by President George Bush, and in December 1992, he was awarded a prestigious Kennedy Center Honor for his lifetime career achievements as a musician and teacher. Since then, he continues to produce educational events and considers the real highlight of his career as having the music school at the University of Idaho named for him, the Lionel Hampton School of Jazz.

Whether you are Black or White, Democratic or Republican, Liberal or Conservative . . . Lionel Hampton represents the very best of America.

Happy birthday Lionel Hampton.

WELCOMING THE AMERICAN WIND ENERGY ASSOCIATION TO BAKERSFIELD

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 1998

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I take pleasure in announcing that the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) is holding its annual convention in Bakersfield, California this year and in welcoming wind energy experts from all over the globe to this event. Between April 27 and May 1, wind energy industry representatives and government officials from around the world will discuss and view new technologies and the burgeoning market for clean electricity generated with wind turbine technologies.

This convention is a special event for my constituents because others will notice just how important the Kern County wind energy industry has become when conventioners tour the Tehachapi Pass wind farms. Tehachapi hosts one of the largest concentrations of wind generation equipment in the United States. The area's 5,000 wind turbines produce enough power to light San Francisco. Wind power is big business in this small town:

some 3,200 jobs in the Tehachapi area are related to wind power.

The industry has a great story to tell everyone. Today, wind power is being generated in California, Hawaii, Vermont, Iowa, Texas and Minnesota. American companies have gone from buying foreign technology to developing and selling their own wind turbines here in the United States. There are tremendous international markets developing for U.S. wind technology and the industry has dramatically cut the cost of producing power with this environmentally-benign power source to as little as 3 cents per kilowatt hour. The future of wind energy will be explored by convention guests when they come to Bakersfield and I wish all who attend success as they chart the trade's future course.

BUILDING EFFICIENT SURFACE TRANSPORTATION AND EQUITY ACT OF 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN E. ENSIGN

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 1, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2400) to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes:

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. Chairman. I would like to thank Chairman SHUSTER and PETRI, and ranking members OBERSTAR and RAHALL for including in the BESTEA legislation an authorization for a new start rail project being undertaken by the Regional Transportation Commission of Clark County, Nevada (RTC). The RTC's Resort Corridor Fixed Guideway Project is included among these projects authorized for Final Design and Construction under Item (34) of section 332 of the bill. This project is currently in the preliminary engineering phase, and is critically needed to meet clean air demands and the ever increasing transportation needs in the Las Vegas Valley. The proposed system is anticipated to carry 95,000 passengers daily, and will provide efficient transit service into the Resort Corridor where over 50 percent of regional employment is focused. I appreciate the recognition given to RTC's Resort Corridor Fixed Guideway Project by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure in the authorization of new start projects.

IN MEMORY OF DOROTHY M. VANSANDT

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 1998

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to say a special word of tribute to Dorothy "Dottie" Mae Vansandt, the former Cass County, Missouri, Public Administrator, who passed away recently at the age of 75.

Dottie Vansandt was an important civic leader in Cass County, Missouri. She served as the county's public administrator from 1977 to 1992 and devoted her time to various community organizations. She was a member of

the United Methodist Church in Harrisonville, MO, and served as a board member for the Cassco Area Workshop. She also served as a member of the Bayard Chapter No. 179 Order of the Eastern Star. In addition, Dottie was a member of the Cass County Central Democratic Committee, the Cass County Women's Democrat Club, and was a Shrine Circus Mom. In 1993, Dottie was honored as the Cass County Democrat Woman of the Year.

Mrs. Vansandt is survived by a son, a daughter, a stepdaughter, eight grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker. Dottie Vansandt's public services makes her a role model for young civil leaders. I am certain that the Members of the House will join me in honoring this Missourian who will be missed by all who knew her.

A TRIBUTE TO MINDY ELVEY

HON. BUD SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 1998

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring our colleagues' attention to a Pennsylvanian who has refused to let a formidable obstacle stand in her way of making people's lives a little better. This outstanding citizen, Mr. Speaker, is Mindy Elvey of Altoona, Pennsylvania.

Mindy is a teenager growing up in a typical American city, but it is her outstanding actions, Mr. Speaker, which are nothing short of extraordinary. She is a 15-year-old who has battled leukemia and still receives monthly chemotherapy to fight this terrible and life threatening disease. However, Mindy has not allowed her illness to stop her from caring about those around her.

As a patient in a Pittsburgh Ronald McDonald House, Mindy was not permitted to visit the common television viewing room during a critical stage in her fight against leukemia because she couldn't risk infection while being exposed to others. While recuperating at her home in Altoona, Mindy made crafts and sold them to family and friends in order to purchase a new television set for the facility. Her concern for others who were sick and staying at the facility didn't stop there, and Mindy began a campaign to persuade local groups and businesses to donate more television sets to the Pittsburgh Ronald McDonald House. Her efforts have allowed 10 of the 15 bedrooms at the facility to have brand new television sets in them. Mindy Elvey had stated, "I just wanted to do something nice."

For her selfless determination Mindy Elvey is being honored tomorrow, along with other outstanding citizens from around the country, at the Seventh Annual "Make A Difference Day," hosted by USA Weekend Magazine and the Points of Light Foundation.

At this time, Mr. Speaker, I ask our colleagues in the House of Representatives to join with me in congratulating Ms. Elvey for being chosen as a national honoree and for a job well done. Mindy has shown that no matter what difficult odds we may face, we can still make our world a better place.

NAFTA BELIEVERS CAN CHANGE THEIR MINDS

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 1998

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, it is no secret that I have been an opponent of NAFTA since its inception. I have voted against the free trade pact, and I have opposed efforts to expand it.

Many have accused me of being out of touch with modern economics and the "global economy." Nonetheless, I believe the facts have supported my position. NAFTA has been a disaster. Americans jobs have been lost and our trade deficit has exploded with Mexico. I am further heartened in my opposition to NAFTA by the recent conversion of one of America's leading journalists to my point of view: Hedrick Smith of the Public Broadcasting System.

Smith, who produces or hosts many important news programs and documentaries on PBS, recently showed NAFTA's ill effects on his excellent series, "Surviving the Bottom Line." In addition, Smith wrote an analysis of NAFTA in Washington Monthly magazine based on his research for the documentary. Both show a damning picture painted a self-described "long time free trader."

Smith mentions the familiar problems with NAFTA: The U.S. has lost several hundred thousand jobs and our balance of trade has gone from a \$5.4 billion surplus to a \$18 billion deficit with Mexico in four years.

However, Smith has also uncovered some interesting reasons as to why this happened. His reporting showed that some of the blame goes all the way across the Pacific Ocean to Japan and South Korea, where Pacific Rim industrial giants like Sony, Samsung and Panasonic have discovered a backdoor to the U.S. market. By setting up plants south of the border and exporting products made there to us they are able to avoid paying import duties because NAFTA eliminated those tariffs between Mexico and the United States.

Just when many foreign-based firms, such as Honda, Toyota and BMW, have discovered the prudence in investing in plants in the United States to avoid import tariffs, while also paying good wages to American workers who in turn can afford to purchase the products they make, NAFTA has given these companies a huge pool of one-dollar-an-hour workers who can also help them avoid the same tariffs.

Smith's reporting also confirms that rather than bringing the average Mexican worker up, NAFTA has had the reverse effect of depressing the living standard of American workers. The major culprit here is the notoriously weak Mexican labor unions, which are usually controlled by the government, and the power of the maquiladora trade associations in collusion with that government, which conspire to keep wages down lest the Mexican workers actually try to share in the wealth they help create. These low wages have a chilling effect that reaches far north of the border.

Smith's conclusion is not hopeful: "As long as Mexican wages are kept low as a matter of government policy, inadequate labor rights or collusion among employers, the living standard of the American middle class will continue to erode."

For the sake of our nation and for the sake of American working families, we must take a long, hard look at our nation's trade policies and the currently fashionable mentality that all free trade must be good trade. If we don't, I strongly suspect that Hendrick Smith's prophecy will come true.

TRIBUTE TO LUPITA AND TONY RAMIREZ

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 21, 1998

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and pay tribute to Lupita and Tony Ramirez, for being awarded the Governor's Volunteer Award for outstanding service. Mr. and Mrs. Ramirez were presented with this award on April 20, 1998, by Governor George W. Bush. For over 29 years, Mr. and Mrs. Ramirez have been helping others, contributing to a better way of living for the citizens of Harlingen, TX. They utilize their talents in the volunteer spirit for humanity.

As true pioneer volunteers, Antonio and Lupita Ramirez began their volunteer activities in 1969. They realized that many poor citizens had no transportation to get to their doctor's appointments. In the same spirit, they rounded up twenty friends and turned their home, telephone, and cars into an information, referral and transportation center. They did not have money, but they had heart and determination.

The group organized and became the Harlingen Community Committee. Under the direction of Mr. Ramirez as President, they progressed from the Ramirez' home into a building to one of Harlingen's parks. The Ramirez became a tireless advocate for the poor people. They aided in starting "Su Clinica Familiar" where medical services are available to our low-income people. Mr. Ramirez also helped found Amigos del Valle, which provides housing, transportation, and a hot meal for the elderly in the community.

In 1971, because of high unemployment, they started employment training for the community. Another vital service to the people in need, the Ramirez added Adult Basic Education, teaching English, typing, bookkeeping, Spanish, citizenship, drivers ed, sewing, and upholstery.

In 1974, the Ramirez incorporated the organization and persuaded the city of Harlingen to approve their information and referral and social service agency. All the while volunteers were running the office and providing transportation for those in need. By now, the Harlingen Community Committee had grown and changed their name to "Harlingen Information and Social Service Organization," a multi-purpose center.

In 1983, after a severe freeze, and while the State and Federal officials debated responsibility for bureaucratic bottlenecks, the Ramirez provided emergency help for many farm workers unemployed by the freeze. The Ramirez' quick response to this emergency made it easier for the families to receive the much needed help.

For these efforts, Cameron County Officials and I recognized Antonio and Lupita Ramirez. On March 1, 1984, it was declared the "Tony and Lupita Ramirez Day," in Cameron County,