learn,'' Trey says. His commitment to his students extends beyond the classroom, as evidenced by his leadership roles at the school and system level. Trey is acting principal when Stewarts Creek Elementary School Principal Richard Zago is absent.

Congratulations, again, Trey. To impart a love of learning to children at this formative stage in their life is a gift they will carry with them and always prosper from.

HONORING ADMIRAL ROBERT E. PEARY

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. MURTHA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge a great American and extraordinary explorer, Admiral Robert Edwin Peary, and the one hundredth anniversary of his expedition to the North Pole.

Peary was born on May 6, 1856 in Cresson, Pennsylvania. He graduated from Bowdoin College and joined the United States Navy in 1881. Peary made several expeditions throughout the Arctic, including Greenland, during this lifetime.

On April 6, 1909 Peary concluded his journey to the North Pole. He was accompanied by his longtime companion Matthew Henson and four Inuit men.

Throughout his life, he received many awards, honors, and honorary degrees. In 1911 Peary retired from the Navy with the rank of Rear Admiral. He died on February 20, 1920 in Washington, DC.

Madam Speaker, at this time in history when the North Pole is so important to geopolitics, I hope that our nation will reflect on the hundredth anniversary of Admiral Peary's great accomplishment.

INTRODUCING THE MAKE COLLEGE AFFORDABLE ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to help millions of Americans afford higher education by introducing the Make College Affordable Act of 2009, which makes college tuition tax deductible. Today the average cost of education at a state university is $12,796 per year, and the cost of education at a private university is $30,367 per year. These high costs have left many middle-class American families struggling to afford college for their children, who are often ineligible for financial aid. Therefore, middle-class students have no choice but to obtain student loans, and thus leave college saddled with massive debt.

Even families who plan and save well in advance for their children's education may have a difficult time because their savings are eroded by taxation and inflation. The Make College Affordable Act will help these middle-class students by allowing them, or their parents or guardians who claim them as dependents, to deduct the cost of college tuition as well as the cost of student loan repayments.

The Make College Affordable Act will also help older or nontraditional students looking to improve their job skills or prepare for a career change, by pursuing higher education. In today's economy, the average American worker can expect to change jobs, and even careers, several times during his or her working life, making it more important than ever that working Americans be able to devote their resources to continuing their educations.

Helping the American people use their own money to ensure every qualified American can receive a college education is one of the best investments this Congress can make in the future. I therefore urge my colleagues to help strengthen America by ensuring more Americans can obtain college educations by cosponsoring the Make College Affordable Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was unable to participate in a series of votes on the floor of the House of Representatives today.

Had I been present to vote on rollcall No. 180, a Bean (IL)/McMahon (NY) Amendment to H.R. 1664, a bill to amend the executive compensation provisions of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008, I would have voted ''nay'' on the question.

Had I been present to vote on rollcall No. 181, a Dahlkemper (PA) Amendment to H.R. 1664, I would have voted ''aye'' on the question.

Had I been present to vote on rollcall No. 182, final passage of H.R. 1664, I would have voted ''aye'' on the question.

THE PATRIOT CORPORATIONS OF AMERICA ACT: INVESTING IN AMERICA

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, today we find ourselves in the grips of recession. As of is morning there were 5.7 million Americans without a job and we should be doing everything in our power to save jobs—and create new ones.

Today, I am introducing the Patriot Corporations of America Act, which encourages corporations to invest in the American people and the American economy. In this time of change we should lift the spirit of patriotism and create a new corporate ethic in America—one that unites workers and their employers in the mutual goal of building a stronger, more prosperous business that will contribute to a stronger, more prosperous America.

Since the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, we have benefited from the great work and contributions of countless American patriots and Congress has always undertaken efforts to honor those men and women. The Patriot Corporations of America Act continues that tradition by rewarding companies that commit to America and American workers.

It angers Americans, and it angers me, when companies outsource jobs and relocate to avoid giving back to the country that afforded them the opportunity to succeed. Companies that continue to send American jobs abroad during these difficult times should not receive the same benefits as companies who are keeping jobs right here. It is time for the United States to reward companies that show a dedication to the American workforce.

The Patriot Corporation Act will move us along the path to recovery, while simultaneously giving a hand-up to ''patriotic'' companies that are struggling in the midst of a recession.

Bill Edley, a former State Representative in Illinois, and political scientist Robin Johnson of Monmouth College, introduced a new idea of turning the tables around with the Patriot Corporations of America Act. It would reward companies, like New Maryland Clothing and Tama Manufacturing, that care about our Nation, our communities, and American workers. I am honored to be introducing this commonsense concept in the form of legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives.

In exchange for preferential treatment in government contracting and a 5% tax rate reduction, Patriot Corporations would be asked to pledge their allegiance to our country by producing at least 90% of their goods and doing at least 50% of their research and development in the United States. They would limit top managements' compensation to no greater than 100 times that of their lowest-compensated full-time workers. They would show their commitment to their workers by contributing at least 5% of payroll to portable pension funds and by paying for at least 70% of the cost of health insurance plans. Finally, Patriot Corporations would simply be required to comply with existing federal regulations regarding the environment, workplace safety, consumer protections and labor relations, including maintaining neutrality in employee organizing drives.

Mr. Speaker, the Patriot Corporations for America Act would be revenue neutral. It would be paid for by closing corporate offshoring loopholes that have been exploited and, if necessary, reining in some of the new tax breaks for millionaires.

Patriot Corporations would create a new class of companies committed to uphold the dignity and prosperity of American workers as well as to selling their goods on the American market and around the world.

Patriot Corporations are an expression of the American spirit of our fore fathers and mothers when they took that brave step of declaring our independence and creating the United States of America.

I'm confident that between the Recovery Act and legislation like the Patriots Corporation Act—America will emerge stronger from this recession.

I am honored to be introducing this bill today and I encourage my colleagues to join me in saluting American businesses and workers.

TRIBUTE TO GARDNER MAYOR CAROL LEHMAN

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to rise today to honor Gardner, Kansas, Mayor Carol Lehman who is stepping down this year after serving for 20 years as mayor. Before being elected mayor, Carol served two years on the City Council. During her time as mayor, Gardner has grown and prospered, no doubt in part because of the wise and stable leadership that Carol provided. Through it all, Gardner retains all the charm of a Midwestern small town, with the advantages of being a short drive from Kansas City.

I would like to read into the record Mayor Lehman's recent farewell message to her community. In this message, I know you will see the affection and devotion she feels to Gardner, and will understand how much all of us will miss her common sense, humor, and leadership.

It doesn't seem possible I'm writing my last Mayor's message—20 years have gone by in a flash. The advancements we've made in the last 20 years are too numerous to mention, but some do stand out as milestones in our story of growth and change.

When metro dialing became available in Gardner, we weren't ''out of town'' anymore and homebuilders started making their way down 1–35. When McDonald's came, we surely thought we had arrived when every child in town could have a happy meal—in their own backyard! New subdivisions began popping up and both the City and the School District realized they had many challenges facing them. The excitement of Country Mart locating in Moonlight Plaza, as our first ''big'' grocery store was only surpassed by Price Chopper becoming a Gardner presence. The construction of TradeNet in Gardner was the first new industry we had seen in years. And finally the arrival of Wal-Mart assured more sales tax dollars would be staying in our community!

By adding the departments of Community Development, Public Safety, Finance, and Parks & Recreation to our City Administration team, a new era of professionalism was established. Some noteworthy accomplishments include: designating Hillsdale Lake as the City's water supply, building the new water treatment plant and the new wastewater treatment plant, the expansion of City Hall, donating land to Johnson County for our new library, partnering with our veterans to build Veteran's Park, forming the Economic Development Corporation with the help of local businesses, enhancing the Gardner Greenway Corridor and walking paths, creating the Downtown Enhancement District, Christmas in the Park, widening Center Street, working on future plans of the BNSF Intermodal Logistics Park and anticipating in the future revenue it will generate in our city, county and state, Gardner's fabulous Sesquicentennial Celebration, building Plum Creek Public Safety Station #2, annexing nearly 5,600 acres and experiencing the population explosion—from 4,380 in 1989 to approximately 18,000 today! Most recently, the announcement of a 1.1 million square foot warehouse building in Gardner with the promise of 200 jobs is great news for the City and its residents.

I can vividly remember an event that occurred on my birthday in June, 2005. The results of our park sales tax question came in with a resounding Yes, passing by 72%! That was a birthday present to remember! Citizens are now enjoying our fabulous Gardner Aquatics Center and beautiful Celebration Park. The passage of that ballot question emphasized to City leaders how important quality of life is to our families and it also told us that Gardner wants to enjoy leisure time closer to home.

The influx of new citizens and young families has been exhilarating—they have continued to bring, to their new ''home town'', high expectations, and an enthusiasm and brightness which will light Gardner for years to come. It has been heartwarming to see the blend of new and long time citizens in our churches, neighborhoods and civic organizations—working together to make Gardner a quality community.

In the last 20 years, there have been bumps in the road, but with each challenge we have been fortunate to have the right people in the right places to guide and advise us. With each disappointment we have learned much, pledged to do better the next time and approached the new day with optimism.

Gardner has been blessed with a succession of forward thinking City Council Members and Planning Commissioners. For many years now, the City Council has planned for the future, embraced growth and change and kept the mill levy steady, while at the same time earning the city an A2 bond rating. Together, with a visionary staff whose expertise, professionalism and creativity rates among the best, Gardner has handled our explosive growth well and we will be ready for whatever the future brings.

I cannot adequately express to you what an honor and a privilege it has been to be your Mayor, and I humbly thank you. Gardner has always been a town of wonderful people; if I am certain of one thing as the torch is passed, I know the future shines brightly for this town and its residents.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 1105, Consolidated Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2009. These earmarks are all multi-member requests and national projects/programs.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE AND SCIENCE

Delaware River Basin Commission, P.O. Box 7360, West Trenton, NJ—$235,000—Funding for the Delaware River Enhanced Flood Warning System. The funding will be used to assist the Delaware River Basin Commission, in conjunction with NOAA/NWS, USGS and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, with the enhancement of the basin's flood warning system. This enhancement will include the evaluation and improvement of existing precipitation and stream gage networks, development of additional NOAA flood forecast points in both non-tidal and tidal stream reaches, and merger of GIS and Doppler radar technology to improve flash flood warning capabilities for smaller watersheds.

ENERGY AND WATER

Mid-Atlantic River Commissions, Delaware River Basin Commission, P.O. Box 7360, West Trenton, NJ—$2,365,000—This funding is necessary to fulfill the federal government's obligation to provide an equitable share of funding for the commissions, as required under their compacts. This funding will enable the commissions to implement critically important water resources management projects and activities in the national interest.

LABOR HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AND EDUCATION

National Writing Project Corporation, University of California, 2105 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, CA—$24,291,000—It is my understanding that the funding would be used to fund programs in teacher development, quality writing, and research to help improve student performance in writing.

Reach Out and Read National Center, 56 Roland Street, Boston, MA—$4,965,000—It is my understanding that the funding would be used for the purposes authorized in Section 5411–5414 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

Center for Civic Education, 5145 Douglas Fir Road, Calabasas, CA—$25,095,000—It is my understanding that the funding would be used to support the We the People program and the Cooperative Education Exchange, the purposes of which are authorized by the Education for Democracy Act (Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Sections 2341–2346).

National Council on Economic Education, 1140 Avenue of the Americas, Suite 202, New York, NY—$5,019,000—It is my understanding that the funding would be used to support the Cooperative Education Exchange, the purposes of which are authorized by the Education for Democracy Act (Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Sections 2341–2346).

National History Day, 0119 Cecil Hall, University of Maryland, College Park, MD—$500,000—It is my understanding that the funding would be used to expand and improve National History Day, a year-long non-profit education program, focused on grades 6–12, that works with both students and teachers to improve the teaching and learning of history in schools.

Reading is Fundamental, Inc., 1825 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 400, Washington, DC—$24,803,000—It is my understanding that the funding would be used for the purposes authorized in Section 5451 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act to support and promote programs, which include the distribution of inexpensive books to young and school-age children, that motivate children to read.