EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING KESSAI NOTE'S FIRST VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES AS PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MARSHALL ISLANDS

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 11, 2000

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, today I join with many of my colleagues in offering a heartfelt welcome to the new President of the Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI)—Kessai Note. It is his first visit to our country since becoming President and it represents an affirmation of the strong ties between our two countries.

President Note was at the forefront of the movement to establish the Marshall Islands as a self-governing democracy. However, he has also always been a strong supporter of RMI's uniquely close and mutually beneficial bilateral relationship with the United States. Our long-term military alliance and permanent strategic partnership allows for a U.S. presence on Kwajalein Atoll, the site of a vital U.S. Army ballistic missile systems command.

In addition to recognizing the partnership between the U.S. and RMI, I would also like to commend the long-standing friendship between Israel and the RMI. Israel was one of the first countries to support the RMI's entry into the United Nations. Since it became a member, the RMI, along with the United States, has been one of Israel's staunchest supporters in the United Nations. Israel has further befriended the RMI by providing technical assistance and educational grants to the Republic's people.

Having experienced their own acute suffering and pain as a result of nuclear tests conducted in the Marshall Islands, the people of RMI have reached out to their Jewish neighbors, committing themselves to ''putting faces on human tragedies while holding parties responsible for their actions.''

Mr. Speaker, President Note's presence here today in our nation's Capitol attests to the longstanding friendship between the United States and the Republic of Marshall Islands. I hope my colleagues will join with me in commending both the nation and its President.

TRIBUTE TO FATHER LLOYD SPRINGER

HON. JOSE E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 11, 2000

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to Father Lloyd Springer, who has retired after 27 years of ministry to the South Bronx. He was honored on August 25, 2000, by members of the community.

Father Springer came as priest in charge to St. Edmunds Episcopal Church, located at 177th Street and Morris Avenue, in 1973, with a vision and commitment. As a hands-on clergy, he at once began to enhance services to the congregation and to build coalitions with and feelings of empowerment in neighborhood residents. However, as soon as the church began to grow in membership, a devastating fire consumed the parish hall. While this could have been an excuse to flee the South Bronx, instead Fr. Springer worked with the Episcopal Diocese to secure a loan for renovation. Further, he looked to the needs of the neighborhood beginning with Trabajamos Head Start.

Blueprints for the renovation of four abandoned buildings across from the church were gathering dust when Brien O'Toole, a community organizer from the North West Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition, came to the Mt. Hope neighborhood. Fr. Springer agreed to provide space in the church office and the Mt. Hope Organization was born. A coalition of tenants, churchgoers, homeowners and community leaders met regularly in St. Edmunds' undercroft to address and plan how they would solve the growing problems of abandoned housing stock, drugs, and poor services. The priority for St. Edmunds was the four abandoned buildings across from the church, because drug dealing there posed a danger to all the community, and especially to the community's children. On the site, St. Edmund's Court, with 110 housing units for both community residents and the City's homeless, was opened in 1989 with the Honorable Edward I. Koch presiding.

Mr. Speaker, after this success, the Mt. Hope Organization formed a management company and began working with the City to reclaim other abandoned buildings. Father Springer led marches and meetings with elected officials, and the result was 1,200 more units of housing renovated for low- and moderate-income families.

Father Springer became the first president of the Board of the Mt. Hope Housing Company, a new Community Development Corporation providing housing, social services, jobs, and job training for residents of the community. During the six years under Fr. Springer's leadership, the Mt. Hope Housing Company did as much work as many larger and longer established Community Development Corporations.

Under Fr. Springer's leadership, and in partnership with the Episcopal Diocese and, later, with Episcopal Charities, an After School and Food Bank Program was established. Leaders of the Mt. Hope/St. Edmunds community petitioned the Bronx Borough President for a decent playground, and in 1993 a major capital improvement grant of $870,000 for construction of the St. Edmunds/Mt. Hope Playground was announced at the corner of 177th and Walton Avenue. Parishioners also began to serve an Annual Thanksgiving Dinner for the homeless.

These accomplishments energized the community, and Fr. Springer and members launched a search for an organization that would address the inadequate health services available at that time. The Institute for Urban Family Health and the Primary Care Development Corporation became partners with St. Edmunds and Walton Family Health Center opened its doors. This health facility now serves about 900 families yearly. St. Edmunds is also a partner in a new Reach 2010 project, which is looking at the disparities in health care in urban settings, and in particularly the high incidence of diabetes and hypertension among Blacks and Hispanics in the South Bronx.

Father Springer's commitment not only to his parish, St. Edmunds, but also to the Mt. Hope Community as a whole, including the homeless, has not gone unrecognized. As Mt. Hope Housing Company rightly stated during its 1993 award, ''Father Springer's presence and wisdom, broad vision and imperturbable temperament, through trials and successes has held the neighborhood to its mission. These qualities and a passion for justice and opportunity, and an ethic of stewardship and duty have contributed mightily to making the Mt. Hope area a community equal to the dignity of its residents.''

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Father Lloyd Springer for his remarkable career of serving the community and bringing hope to the many individuals he has touched.

SMALL BUSINESS EXPORT ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2000

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 11, 2000

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, last year, U.S. Government statistics revealed the largest U.S. trade deficit figure ever, reaching $271 billion, a 65-percent increase over last year. This year's monthly trade numbers reveal that the United States will experience an even higher trade deficit than last year. What steps can be taken to reverse this trend?

An overlooked issue in the trade deficit debate is the role that small business exporters play in our economy. According to the Commerce Department, between 1987 and 1997, the number of small business exporters tripled, going from 66,000 to 202,000. Small businesses now account for 31 percent of total merchandise export sales spread throughout every industrial classification. What is more surprising is that the fastest growth among small business exporters has been with companies employing fewer than 20 employees. These very small businesses represented 65 percent of all exporting companies in 1997.

Despite these encouraging statistics, there is still more work that needs to be done. Even though the number of small business exporters tripled, they form less than one percent of all small businesses in the United States. Even among these cutting-edge firms, nearly two-thirds of small business exporters sold to

just one foreign market in 1997. In fact, 76 percent of small business exporters sold less than $250,000 worth of goods abroad. In other words, these are ''casual'' exporters. The key is to encourage more small businesses to enter the trade arena and then to prod ''casual'' small business exporters into becoming more active. If we were able to move in this direction, it could boost our exports by several billion dollars.

With the growth of the Internet economy, I am optimistic that we can move in this direction. However, we need to insure that all our government agencies are up to the challenge so they can help increase exports from the small business community.

While most of the trade focus in the Federal Government for small business is on export promotion, the office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) can continue to play a vital role in formulating trade policy beneficial to small business. I saw this during the hearing my Small Business Exports Subcommittee held last May examining how Permanent Normal Trade Relations (PNTR) would help small business exporters. I heard first-hand from small business exporters how different aspects of the United States-China World Trade Organization (WTO) Accession Agreement, which was negotiated by USTR, would specifically benefit their company's prospects for growth.

The next ''round'' of global trade talks could even have more positive benefits for small business exporters, primarily in the areas of trade facilitation. Topics of discussion under this umbrella are streamlining trade dispute resolution procedures; reforming the documentation and filing procedures for patent and trademark protection; opening the public procurement process by foreign governments to small businesses; enhancing transparency in international tax, finance, customs procedures, and trade rules; and exploring means to internationalize the recognition of technical certification of professionals. How these issues get resolved will be of key interest to small business exporters.

In addition, this Assistant USTR for small business can play an outreach and advocacy role throughout the United States to solicit input from the small business community. Many small business exporters find our government bureaucracy very mystifying and complicated. Many times, small business exporters do not know who to ask a trade policy question. They get bounced or referred to one person after another. Having one person in charge who is empowered to go beyond the Washington Beltway to listen to small business may help alleviate this problem.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Small Business Export Enhancement Act of 2000.

TRIBUTE TO MARSHALL SPACE FLIGHT CENTER IN HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA

HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 11, 2000

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize tomorrow's 40th anniversary of the dedication by president Dwight Eisenhower of the George C. Marshall Space Flight Center.

Since the Marshall Center opened its doors for business under the direction of Dr. Wernher von Braun on July 1, 1960, it has played a pivotal role in our Nation's space program. Led by the von Braun Rocket Team, the Marshall Center developed the Mercury-Redstone vehicle that put America's first astronaut, Alan B. Shepard, into sub-orbital space in 1961. Building upon this firm foundation, Marshall and its partners boldly responded to President Kennedy's challenge to land a man on the Moon by pioneering the development of the colossal Saturn V rocket. The Marshall Center also designed and developed the Lunar Roving Vehicle, used to carry our Apollo astronauts on their journey around the then-unknown surface of our Moon. These and other pioneering accomplishments make up a strong heritage that has made Marshall world-renowned for transportation to, from, and in space.

At a time, Mr. Speaker, when the International Space Station is being constructed 250 miles overhead, it is proper to remember that the first American manned space station, Skylab, was managed at the Marshall Center. Lessons learned from Skylab about long-term human presence in space prove today to be invaluable as we enter an era of unprecedented discovery onboard the ISS. Continuing this tradition of excellence, Marshall and its industry partners have successfully designed, developed, assembled, integrated, tested, and delivered a number of critical U.S. pressurized ISS elements such as Unity, Destiny, and the Habitation and Node 2 modules.

In 1972, following the announcement by President Nixon of plans to develop America's reusable space shuttle, Marshall again accepted its Nation's challenge by designing the shuttle's main engines, solid rocket boosters and external tank. Today, Marshall is responsible for the management of these critical shuttle systems, and is committed to continually improving their reliability, safety, and performance.

Before becoming a reality, Marshall was visualized as ''the only self-contained organization in the nation, which was capable of conducting the development of a space vehicle from the conception of the idea, through production of hardware, testing and launching operations.'' They have exceeded these expectations by not only seeing vehicles through all stages of development, but also by broadening their activities through the scientific success of the Hubble Space Telescope, the Compton Gamma-Ray Observatory, and the Chandra X-ray Observatory three of NASA's great space observatories. The landmark discoveries made by their state-of-the-art scientific instruments have rewritten the science text-books that our children will use for years to come.

In addition to the many world-class facilities at Marshall that contribute to its dynamic engineering test environment, the Marshall Space Flight Center has the distinction of hosting five National Historic Landmarks as designated by the U.S. Department of the Interior. These Historic Landmarks serve as monuments to our cornerstone role in America's space program, and include the Redstone Test Stand, the Propulsion and Structural Test Facility, the Saturn V Dynamic Test Stand, the Neutral Buoyancy Simulator, and one of one three surviving Saturn V rockets.

Mr. Speaker, while I stand here today to commemorate the legacy of Marshall's historic past, I also stand to celebrate the promise of its bright future. As NASA's Center of Excellence for Space Propulsion, Marshall serves as a national resource for research and development of advanced, revolutionary propulsion technologies. Marshall has been tasked to develop propulsion systems that will lower the costs of access to space, opening the doors of space to our entire Nation. The Marshall Center's future vision includes propulsion technologies that will lead to rapid travel throughout and even beyond our solar system. And as NASA's lead center for the development of our nation's future space transportation systems, Marshall will vigorously pursue the research, technological innovations, design and integration of tomorrow's space transportation systems necessary to maintain the United States as a space, military, and economic superpower for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to recognize the source of Marshall's success. It is the talented and highly motivated Marshall workforce, and its industry and academic partners spread across this nation, who have taken us down this path of exceptional achievement. And I believe that our nation's space program will enjoy many more successful missions of discovery while guided by the dedication, creativity, and professionalism of the Marshall's employees and partners.

So today, with enormous pride, I extend my sincerest congratulations to the George C. Marshall Space Flight Center, its employees, and its partners on an exceptional 40-year legacy that occupies a unique position in the history of our space program—a program that has profoundly positioned America first among nations as we begin this 21st century, and promises to enhance the quality of life for ourselves and those who follow us.

CHILD SUPPORT DISTRIBUTION ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2000

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I stand today in support of H.R. 4678, the Child Support Distribution Act. This bill would help poor children escape poverty, strengthen families, and enhance welfare reform by making improvements to the child support system. These improvements would allow more of the child-support collected from noncustodial parents to reach the children on whose behalf these payments are made. When fully implemented, this bill would increase income to children and their custodial parents by over $1 billion a year. In addition the bill simplifies child support distribution rules, and promotes responsible fatherhood. Passage of this bill will result in several important benefits to families by distributing more support to families to help them maintain employment and reduce welfare receipt, simplifying state child support systems and providing needed services to low-income parents to help them support and raise their children.

The bill ensures that once a family has left welfare, that family has the first claim on all child support paid by the father. Under current law, child support collected is first applied to