

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 developing 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.