

years later, Tunisia peacefully gained independence from France. Today, we congratulate Tunisia for 45 years as an independent nation.

The Republic of Tunisia has remained a steadfast friend to the United States, joining Allied forces during World War II and continuing support throughout the Cold War. Today, Tunisia enjoys a burgeoning economy, as the nation's per capita income continues to grow substantially. One of Tunisia's most valuable assets has been its continued willingness to further the Middle East peace process. Despite being surrounded by nations engulfed in political turmoil, Tunisia continues to take an active role in fighting terrorism and international unrest.

I congratulate Tunisia on 45 years of independence and look forward to the United States' continuing strong relations with Tunisia for years to come. Please join me in celebrating the 45th Anniversary of Tunisia's independence.

NATIONAL RIGHT TO WORK ACT
OF 2001

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Mr. GOODLATTE Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to introduce the National Right to Work Act of 2001.

This Act will reduce federal power over the American workplace by removing those provisions of federal law authorizing the collection of forced-union dues as part of a collective bargaining contract.

Since the Wagner Act of 1935 made forced-union dues a keystone of federal labor law, millions of American workers have been forced to pay for union "representation" that they neither choose nor desire.

The primary beneficiaries of Right to Work are America's workers—even those who voluntarily choose to pay union dues, because when union officials are deprived of the forced-dues power granted them under current federal law, they will be more responsive to the workers' needs and concerns.

Mr. Speaker, this act is pro-worker, pro-economic growth, and pro-freedom.

The twenty-one states with Right to Work laws, including my own state of Virginia, have a nearly three-to-one advantage over non-Right to Work states in terms of job creation.

Workers who have the freedom to choose whether or not to join a union have a higher standard of living than their counterparts in non-Right to Work states. The National Right to Work Act would make the economic benefits of voluntary unionism a reality for all Americans.

While this bill is about economics, it is more about freedom.

Compelling a man or woman to pay fees to a union in order to work violates the very principle of individual liberty upon which this nation was founded. Oftentimes, forced union dues are used to support causes that worker does not wish to support with his or her hard-earned wages.

Thomas Jefferson said it best, "... to compel a man to furnish contributions of money for the propagation of opinions which he disbelieves is sinful and tyrannical."

By passing the National Right to Work Act, this Congress will take a major step toward restoring the freedom of America's workers to choose the form of workplace representation that best suits their needs.

In a free-society, the decision of whether or not to join or support a union should be made by a worker, not a union official, not an employer, and certainly not the U.S. Congress.

The National Right to Work Act reduces federal power over America's labor markets, promotes economic growth and a higher standard of living, and enhances freedom.

I urge my colleagues to quickly pass the National Right to Work Act and free millions of Americans from the tyranny of forced-union dues.

TRIBUTE TO ALEX BRISEÑO FOR
THIRTY-FOUR YEARS OF SERVICE
TO THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Mr. RODRIGUEZ Mr. Speaker, today it is my privilege to recognize Alex Briseño for his 34 years of service to the City of San Antonio. As Mr. Briseño retires from his current position as the City Manager to one of the largest cities in Texas we know that his hard work and dedication will be greatly missed by the people of our community.

Nobody understands San Antonio's government better than Alex Briseño. He began his career with the City of San Antonio in 1977 as assistant to the city manager. Within three years he advanced to become an assistant city manager. During his next ten years of service he learned the intricacies of different departments within the city, knowledge that would empower him to manage the city staff with the wise hand of experience. He supervised numerous different departments ranging from the Budget Department to the Information Services and Health Department. He was well prepared for the challenges he would face as city manager, the city's top non-elected executive position.

In 1990, Mr. Briseño became city manager for a city that currently has more than 1.1 million people and covers an area of 417 square miles. He oversaw a budget of more than \$1 billion and managed 11,000 employees. Through his leadership in the past ten years San Antonio has continued to grow and develop.

Mr. Briseño not only shared his leadership skills with the city while acting as city manager; he also served the community through his service in various organizations. He has been on the board of directors of the Boy Scouts of America, helping to develop the youth of our nation. He has served on the United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County Board of Trustees to better the lives of those in need, served on the board of directors of his alma mater, Trinity University, to improve education in the city, and worked with the Alamo Area Council and Free Trade Alliance San Antonio to create new opportunities for growth and advancement.

One aspect of this Mr. Briseño's life that helped to prepare him for leadership in the city

of San Antonio was his education. At Trinity University he earned his undergraduate degree in economics where he graduated magna cum laude. He then continued his education to earn his Master's in Urban Studies. His service as a captain in the United States Army was another invaluable source of education that prepared him for his future years in city government.

We should all commend the dedication of this man to his job and his community. He was born and raised in San Antonio, received his education in life there, and stayed to help build its future. San Antonio is a better place because of Mr. Briseño's service. We wish him well in all future endeavors.

HIGH PERFORMANCE SCHOOLS
ACT OF 2001

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 20, 2001

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the High Performance Schools Act of 2001, a bill intended to help school districts build schools that provide better learning environments for children, while also saving on energy costs and protecting the environment.

I am pleased that my colleagues Representatives SHERWOOD BOEHLERT, GEORGE MILLER, DAVID BONIOR, BOB ETHERIDGE, and MIKE HONDA are joining me as original cosponsors of this bill.

This legislation is part of a package of bills I plan to introduce or cosponsor that promotes sustainable development and preserves quality of life in communities that are undergoing intense growth. As we have seen in my State of Colorado and in many parts of the West, unprecedented population growth has led to urban sprawl and congestion, which has eroded much of the quality of life we value, including valuable open space, farmland, wildlife, and natural, cultural and recreational resources.

I believe that the Federal Government can do a better job to support State and community efforts to control growth and prevent sprawl. And this bill is one step toward that goal.

Many of you know about my interest in clean energy. As lead co-chair of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Caucus in the House, I am committed to promoting these technologies that further our national goals of broad-based economic growth, environmental protection, national security, and economic competitiveness.

In recent years, we've seen a wide array of successes in developing these technologies. In particular, much research has focused on improving energy efficiency and increasing the use of renewable energy in buildings in a "whole building" approach to design and construction. By incorporating advanced energy efficiency technologies, daylighting, and renewable energy, "whole buildings" provide benefits in the way of energy savings, environmental protection, and economic efficiency. As buildings account for roughly a third of our annual energy consumption and a commensurate share of greenhouse gas emissions, this research focus seems well justified. They are