

greatest professional experience and challenge of your life and I know you are up to it. You take the helm of this great warship today and will soon carry her forward to even greater heights and a place in our Nation's history books. To those of you who don't know Captain Mike Groothusen let me tell you a little about him: He is an accomplished aviator (A-7 F/A 18), Executive Officer aboard USS George Washington, Commanding Officer aboard USS *Shreveport*, dedicated professional and Champion of Sailors.

Captain Groothusen you will be fulfilling a dream and I know you will stay sharp, stay focused, stay safe and make us all proud.

You and Tricia are in for the ride of your lifetime. All the years of training, the dedication and sacrifice required of you and your family will be worth it. Command of an aircraft carrier is like nothing else on this earth and I know you will both walk away richer for the experience.

Always remember to trust in your faith, and in your shipmates. God bless you, the crew of this great ship and God Bless the United States of America.

HONORING CORPORAL ROBERT THOMAS

HON. JOSEPH M. HOFFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Mr. HOFFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Corporal Robert Thomas. Corporal Thomas retired from the Lower Gwynedd Police Department in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania on August 12, 2001 after twenty-six years of service. Corporal Thomas has provided his community with outstanding service.

Corporal Thomas served in the U.S. Army Reserves from 1965 until 1967 when he was honorably discharged. In 1977 he was selected as Police Officer of the Year and he received an Exceptional Service Award and ribbon in 1978. Corporal Thomas also earned an Honorable Service Award. He was promoted to the rank of Corporal in 1984.

In addition, Corporal Thomas was a member of the Montgomery County Emergency Response Team and has many letters of praise from the community and area police departments. He was inducted into the American Police Hall of Fame and Museum in 1978.

I am pleased and honored to present this award to Corporal Robert Thomas.

INTRODUCTION OF "SMALL BUSINESS INVESTMENT IN GROWTH ACT OF 2002"

HON. DONALD A. MANZULLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud President Bush for recently releasing a comprehensive Small Business Agenda. The President's Small Business Agenda includes substantive and vital tax and regulatory reforms including, among them, provisions to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for an immediate increase in expensing under Section 179. Accordingly, I rise

today to introduce a bill, the "Small Business Investment in Growth Act of 2002," identical to the President's expensing provisions and to legislation introduced in the Senate on Friday, March 15, 2002, by Senators SUSAN COLLINS of Maine and KIT BOND of Missouri.

As Chairman of the Committee on Small Business, I strongly welcome the Job Creation and Worker Assistance Act of 2002 Congress passed and the President signed last month to stimulate growth and promote prosperity for all Americans. Unfortunately, the final bill did not include small business expensing—a priority I believe would be crucial in increasing small business investment and growth in our economy. Accordingly, my bill would increase immediately the expensing and equipment cost limitations under Section 179 of the Internal Revenue Code to \$40,000 and \$325,000 respectively. Unambiguously, these simple and cost effective changes would boost small business spending and economic growth.

Small entrepreneurs strongly support the proposed changes because they understand that the current law limitations of \$24,000 and \$200,000 are woefully outdated and counterproductive. The majority of small entrepreneurs exceed these current annual cost limits in only three months. Increasing Section 179 expensing for America's small entities will lower their cost of capital and enable them to compete, to expand, and to create new jobs.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to offer this bipartisan bill together with the Committee on Small Business Ranking Democrat NYDIA M. VELAZQUEZ of New York, Representative ROB PORTMAN of Ohio and of the Ways and Means Committee, and several other distinguished members. We urge its prompt passage in this Congress.

THE HAMMOND CARPENTER'S UNION LOCAL 599

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to congratulate some of the most dedicated and skilled workers in Northwest Indiana. On April 13, 2002, in a salute to their workers' durability and longevity, the Hammond Carpenter's Union Local 599 will recognize their members for 25 years or more of dedicated service. They will be recognized during a pin ceremony banquet held on Saturday at the Carpenter's Union Hall in Hammond, Indiana. These individuals, in addition to the other Local 599 members who have served Northwest Indiana so diligently for such a long period of time, are a testament to the prototypical American worker: loyal, dedicated, and hardworking.

The Carpenter's Local 599, which received its charter in 1899, will honor members for their years of devoted service. Those members who will be honored for 60 years for service include: Oscar Wahlstrom and Cecil Webb. The carpenters who will be honored for 55 years of service include: Fred Doppler, Michael Grimmer, Lawrence Hess, Joseph Hoadley, Joseph Lowry, Wayman Porter, John Sowinski, Walter Spencer, and George Wartsbaugh. Those members who will be honored for 50 years of service include: Daniel

Deflorio, Jack Depew, John Grzych, Herman Nashkoff, and Joe Seneff. Those members being honored for 45 years of service include: Edward Bullock, Eugene Langel, and George Pooler. Those members being honored for 40 years of service include: Melvin Blaier, Richard Carnett, Ralph Graham, Aloysius Sajdyh, and Walter Scott. Those members being honored for 35 years of service include: Roger Benson, Jr., William Chick, Eugene Hartz, Steve Hudi, Pete Lolkema, and Ronald Webster. Those members of Local 599 who will be honored for 30 years of service include: Arthur Bach, Lewis Carver, and Anthony Vigil. The carpenters who will be honored for 25 years of service include: John Childers, Gregory Curtis, Larry Eckrich, Robert Emslander, Joseph Gacsy, William Hass, Daniel Hernandez, George Hudak, William Lowry, Rich McIlroy, Walter Sosnowski, Chris Staes, Matthew Stoffregen, and Leonard White.

Northwest Indiana has a rich history of excellence in its craftsmanship and loyalty by its tradesmen. These workers are all outstanding examples of each. They have mastered their trade and have consistently performed at the highest level throughout their careers. They have demonstrated their loyalty to both the union and the community through their hard work and self-sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating these dedicated, honorable, and outstanding members of the Hammond Carpenter's Union Local 599, in addition to all the hardworking union men and women in America. The men and women of Local 599 are a fine representation of America's union workforce; I am proud to represent such dedicated men and women in Congress. Their hard labor and dauntless courage are the achievement and fulfillment of the American dream.

CELEBRATING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GIRL SCOUTS

HON. SAXBY CHAMBLISS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the 90th Anniversary of the Girl Scouts of America. In 1912, Juliette Gordon Low founded the Girl Scouts in Savannah, Georgia with a membership of only 18 girls and the dream of giving the United States "something for all girls." by the end of 1913, there were 535 members and 31 leaders. Today there are nearly 3.7 million Girl Scouts and the program continues to offer quality experiences for girls locally, nationally, and internationally. The Girl Scout program is girl-driven, reflecting the ever-changing ideas and interests of the participating girls. The program encourages increased skill building and responsibility, and also promotes the development of strong leadership and decisionmaking skills.

Throughout its history, the Girl Scouts have provided aid and assistance to our country in times of need. During World War I and II, Girl Scouts worked in hospitals, grew vegetables, and sold defense bonds. During the Great Depression, Girl Scouts troops around the United States joined the relief effort by collecting clothes, food, and toys, volunteering at hospitals, and working on community canning

projects. The Girl Scouts continue to offer enriching experiences through field trips, sports skill-building clinics, community service projects, cultural exchanges, and environmental stewardship.

The growth and achievements of the Girl Scouts would not be possible, without the dedication and guidance of more than 942,000 professionals, 99 percent of those being volunteers. Mr. Speaker, I hope you will join me today in celebrating 90 wonderful years of Girls Scouts USA.

GIRL SCOUTS

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, It is an honor to recognize the 90th anniversary of the Girl Scouts of the United States of America. From March 10 through March 16, 2002, this organization of approximately 3.7 million members celebrated their long and distinguished history.

Since the first Girl Scout meeting, on March 12, 1912, the Girl Scouts have successfully embarked upon their mission to help all girls grow physically, mentally and spiritually. This mission has been accomplished by empowering girls to develop their full potential, by relating positively to others, by teaching values that provide a foundation for sound decision-making, and by contributing to society. The Girl Scouts are remarkable in their ability to address contemporary issues affecting girls, while at the same time maintaining the core set of values that were adopted nearly a century ago.

There are approximately 50,000 Girl Scout members in the State of Kansas. They volunteer their time and energy to make their communities, the State of Kansas, and their Nation a better place. Through the Girl Scouts Program, these girls develop skills and values that will serve them well throughout their lives.

We also must not overlook the thousands of adult leaders and parents who volunteer their time to the Girl Scouts. It is the efforts and supervision of these adult leaders that ensure the success of these programs. These leaders provide an important influence upon the lives of young girls—an influence much greater than I will ever possess as their Congressman. I would like to personally recognize: J. Lynn Smith, Executive Director, Flint Hills Council, Emporia; Linda Mills, Executive Director, Sunflower Council, Hays; Susan Kendall, Executive Director, Wheatbelt Council, Hutchinson; Martha Fee, Legislative Volunteer, Wheatbelt Council, Hutchinson; Diane Oakes, Executive Director, Kaw Valley Council, Topeka; Cindy Frank, Executive Director, Golden Plains Council, Wichita; and Cynthia Stein, Board of Directors President, Golden Plains Council, Wichita; Girl Scout leaders who have donated countless hours of service to the Girl Scouts. Thank you for your dedication to improve the lives of the young girls.

Once again, congratulations on the 90th anniversary of the Girl Scouts. May you have many more years of success in mentoring our Nation's young women.

RECOGNIZING CLEAR FORK BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today in recognition of Clear Fork Baptist church, located in Albany, Kentucky. Clear fork celebrated its 200th anniversary April 7th, 2002.

When our great nation was only 26 years old, Clear Fork Baptist church was founded on the banks of the Clear Fork Creek in what is now Clinton County. The founder, Pastor Isaac Denton, migrated to Kentucky from North Carolina in 1798 and, according to his calling, began to conduct a series of meetings in 1801, converting many settlers to Christianity. In April of 1802, Clear Fork Baptist Church was established with 13 charter members. The Church thrived under Pastor Denton's leadership for 46 years until his death in 1848. He was buried beside the Church, where his tombstone has since been restored and memorialized to honor his dedication. His son, Joseph Denton, also served Pastor for 33 years, becoming one of 24 men who have guided the Church throughout history until today.

Clear Fork Baptist Church has survived an astounding history. The original building was destroyed by fire during the Civil War. Three other structures have been erected through the years, including today's church building, which was built in 1995.

Several church members throughout history have also served the great State of Kentucky. Preston H. Leslie, Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky from 1871-1875, was a member of the Church. In addition, Major William Wood, a state legislator for 23 years, was one of the charter members. During his term in the Legislature, a bill for the Benefit of Religious Society in the Commonwealth was passed. This bill provided official recognition of trustees appointed by the church to act as legal representatives of their congregations.

Known as "The Lighthouse in the Wilderness" after a history book written about the Church, Clear Fork Baptist is the oldest in Clinton County and was the fountainhead for many churches in Kentucky and Tennessee. The first secular school was also established by and named after the Church.

Few churches in our region of the country have a longer or more colorful history than Clear Fork Baptist. Two hundred years after its birth, the Church continues to stand with a determination to fulfill her mission to proclaim the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

SALUTE TO ODESSA, TEXAS ON ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LARRY COMBEST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call the attention of my colleagues to a town in West Texas for which I am proud to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives.

On April 18, 2002, Odessa, Texas will mark the 75th anniversary of its incorporation. This

will be a day to reflect upon the rich history and heritage of Odessa, and to look forward to at least 75 more years of prosperity.

While the origin of the name is not certain, one story is that the city was given its name by railroad workers. The terrain reminded them of the wide, flat prairies around Russia's city, Odessa, which was the wheat distribution center of the world at the time. but if that does not suit you, another story is that it was named of a beautiful Indian maiden who died in the area.

Cattle ranches were established in the area in the late 1800's, but the railroad really marked the founding of Odessa. A railroad construction campsite of the Texas and Pacific Railroad was organized in 1881. Odessa quickly became a major cattle shipping hub for the ranches in the area.

Situated in an area that was an ancient sea, Odessa has rich reserves of oil and natural gas. The town would become ever-tied to oil and gas production after the 1927 discovery of oil. Today, the Permian Basin is known throughout the world as one of the major oil field technology centers, and Odessa remains a vital segment to the Basin. Every even-numbered year, the City hosts the Permian Basin International Oil Show, celebrating its links to the industry with the world's largest inland exhibit of oilfield products and services.

Odessa is home to the University of Texas of the Permian Basin, a branch of Texas Tech Health Sciences Center, and Odessa College. It also has an excellent coliseum exhibit complex, a combined performing symphony with neighbor city Midland, the Ellen Noel Art Museum, a Presidential Museum, and two working playhouses. Some of you may know the group of volunteers known as the Odessa Chuck Wagon Gang, which has been in existence over 60 years and has fed barbeque to people all over the world, all the while promoting the City of Odessa. I am proud to be an honorary member of this terrific and hard-working group.

Known for football prowess, Odessa is home to the Permian High School Panthers and the Odessa High School Broncos, which each have captured numerous state titles. We also can claim to have the winners of minor league hockey's Governor's Cup, the Odessa Jackalopes.

Odessa is a thriving city, thanks to the petroleum business, and many other ranching, farming, industrial and enterprise developments. Today it is more than twenty times the size it was when oil was discovered, and she is Texas' 23rd largest city.

I am very proud to represent the citizens of Odessa here in the House of Representatives. I salute the City, her leaders, and her citizens on this very special occasion. I offer my sincere best wishes for at least another 75 years of prosperity and good fortune.

SUPERFUND PROGRAM

HON. CYNTHIA A. MCKINNEY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, President Bush has already spent America from surplus to deficit, and now he wants to do the same thing with the Superfund program. But instead