

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