

In the 1950s, postal officials and local vineyard owner, Ronald S. Federspiel, met to determine a new name for the area. In the years before, a great number of homebuyers related to the name, Rancho Cordova, since it was the name of their new neighborhood. When the postal officials and Mr. Federspiel discovered that the name fit perfectly on a stamp, the name Rancho Cordova was officially adopted.

In 1950, Aerojet General Corporation, developers of rocket fuels and space engines, choose Rancho Cordova as its home base. Subsequently, Mather Air Force Base, with the only navigation and electronic warfare training wing in the U.S.; McDonnell-Douglas Aircraft, missiles and space systems test center; PMI Manufacturers, Pittsburg Des Moines Steel Co., and many smaller industries would come to call Rancho Cordova home.

In many regards, Rancho Cordova already features some of the essential traits of a well-established city. By comparison, the city's population of approximately 57,000 is bigger than Santa Cruz, Fountain Valley, or San Rafael. In the Sacramento region, the only cities with greater populations are Sacramento, Davis, Roseville, Citrus Heights, and Elk Grove. Furthermore, Rancho Cordova is already the home to an impressive and growing list of businesses; Bank of America, Aerojet Industries, MCI, and Delta Dental, just to name a few. With another 55,000 jobs projected in the next decade, Rancho Cordova is well on its way to becoming one of the most important cities in the Sacramento region.

During the nearly two-decade drive to cityhood, the community leaders and citizens of Rancho Cordova displayed remarkable dedication, determination, and civic pride in ultimately achieving their goal. Judging from its citizens overwhelming commitment to promote and serve the best interest of the city, I have every confidence that Rancho Cordova will continue to achieve and realize greater goals and ambitions in the future.

Mr. Speaker, as the city of Rancho Cordova celebrates its cityhood; I am honored to welcome this vibrant community into our growing region. Rancho Cordova's future is bright and limitless. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in wishing the city of Rancho Cordova continued success in all its future endeavors.

TAXPAYER PROTECTION AND IRS ACCOUNT ABILITY ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, this is another example of the Republican leadership taking a non-controversial, bipartisan bill and adding provisions to turn it into a divisive and bitter battle. The underlying bill contains technical changes and provisions that would make it easier for taxpayers to manage the tax system. We all support these changes and this bill would pass unanimously without the games the leadership insists on playing.

Unfortunately, the games they are playing pose terrible threats to many working men and women across the country. In this instance, Republican leadership has included a provi-

sion that strikes important health insurance standards protecting workers laid-off as a result of trade-related competition.

Trade Adjustment Assistance, TAA, enacted just last year, provides for a tax credit for 65 percent of the cost of health coverage for eligible individuals and qualified family members and establishes protections designed to ensure coverage for all participants. H.R. 1528 undermines the consumer protection provisions provided in the current TAA law and would essentially allow insurers to avoid covering workers 55 and older, who are the majority of TAA participants.

The timing of this could not be worse considering the President was only recently granted Trade Promotion Authority by Congress and we are moving quickly on free trade agreements with several countries and regions around the world.

Overall, these free trade agreements will benefit our economy, but there will be sectors that will lose out to foreign competition. Knowing this, Trade Adjustment Assistance programs and benefits have been set up to help those negatively impact by free trade.

I am appalled at the Republican leadership's ability to take a productive, bipartisan bill that benefits taxpayers across the country, which the underlying bill does, and risk it all by including a provision that hurts American workers.

SMALL BUSINESS HEALTH FAIRNESS ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 2003

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 660, the Small Business Health Fairness Act of 2003.

This legislation aims to make health insurance more affordable for small businesses by allowing them to band together to increase their purchasing power and negotiate lower rates for health insurance.

I know that our small businesses are struggling with their health insurance costs. With double-digit increases in premiums, Madam Speaker, many small businesses simply cannot afford to continue to provide coverage for their employees. And while I support measures to make health insurance more affordable, I have concerns that this legislation would not achieve that end. In fact, studies by both the Congressional Budget Office and RAND have indicated that existing AHPs have not reduced insurance costs for participants.

I also have concerns about this legislation because it would exempt AHPs from state insurance regulations that protect patients and families.

In Texas, health plans are required to cover maternity care, immunizations for children, mammography breast cancer screening, diabetes treatments and supplies, and certain mental health services. H.R. 660 would exempt AHPs from covering these vital services.

I don't think that small businesses and trade associations should have to sacrifice quality in order to afford their health insurance. By taking away these vital patient protections, the policies purchased under AHPs would be

worth little more than the paper they are printed on.

The Kind/Andrews amendment, however, corrects many of these concerns by allowing small businesses to purchase insurance through a Small Employees Health Benefit Plan, similar to the FEHBP. This system would ensure that quality of health plans are protected, that low income employees have assistance to purchase policies, and that the smallest of small businesses get the additional assistance they need.

I urge my colleagues to support the Kind/Andrews alternative, and I yield back the balance of my time.

TRIBUTE TO NEWARK CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS VARSITY SOFTBALL TEAM

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2003

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the New York State Class B Champion Girls Varsity Softball Team from Newark Central High School. Their win was a great testament to the hard work and dedication of this team and its coaching staff.

Head Coach Mike Muscolino has a lot to be proud of, as his Lady Reds brought home not only the State title, but the Section V title and the Class B State Sportsmanship award as well. Newark High School athletic teams have always had a reputation for fair play and good sportsmanship, and this year's girls softball team was no exception. Their award adds an extra ounce of pride to their title, making their victory just that much sweeter.

On behalf of the people of the entire 25th District of New York State, I would like to congratulate the following champions on their outstanding triumph: Brandice Balschmitter, Amanda Baker, Jane Parcerro, Holly Perry, Brittney Peters, Tab Pullen, Andrea Rommel, Sylina Santell, Christine Seppeler, Carrier Sheehe, Rachael Stowell, Sarah Wlodarczyk, Shelly Graham, Alex Hincley, Karli Clingerman, Shannon Schulmerich, Corrie VanDemortel, Thalia Wheaton, as well as Head Coach Mike Muscolino and Assistant Coaches Lee Prong and Dan Pullen.

CONGRATULATING THE NCAA D-II BASEBALL CHAMPIONS

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 23, 2003

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, let me take this means to congratulate the Central Missouri State University (CMSU) Baseball Team on their NCAA-Division II Baseball Championship.

With the leadership of Coach Brad Hill, "MIAA Coach of the Year," the CMSU Mules defeated Tampa 11 to 4 in the championship game to claim its second national title. The Mules ended the season 51-7, their fourth straight season with 50 or more wins.

The Mules also were led by the dedication of its six seniors: Rob Bergin, Boomer Berry,