

A PROCLAMATION IN MEMORY OF
NINA DISCIPIO**HON. ROBERT W. NEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2004

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, I hereby offer my heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Nina DiScipio; and

Whereas, Nina DiScipio was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, and great grandmother to the members of her family; and

Whereas, Nina DiScipio took pride in her role as a mother and homemaker and was named the Ohio Valley Chamber of Commerce Mother of the Year in 1990, receiving recognition from the Ohio House of Representatives for this honor; and

Whereas, Nina, who gave continuous support to her community, earned an appointment, by Governor James A. Rhodes, to the Jefferson Technical Board of Trustees in 1980. In 2002, the Nina Gentile Scholarship was established in her honor; and

Whereas, in 2003, The Franciscan University Steubenville honored Nina and her husband Tony by naming the University's art gallery, The Gentile Gallery, and presenting them with the Founder's Award; and

Whereas, the kindness and compassion she showed towards others will stand as a reminder of a truly remarkable person. Her life and love gave joy to all who knew her; and

Therefore, while I understand how words cannot express our grief at this most trying of times, I offer this token of profound sympathy to the family and friends Nina DiScipio.

HONORING PRESIDENT HAMID
KARZAI—PRESIDENT OF AF-
GHANISTAN**HON. ROB SIMMONS**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 23, 2004

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reflect on the recent visit of Hamid Karzai, President of Afghanistan, to Washington, DC. In his address before Congress on Tuesday, June 15th, President Karzai spoke movingly about the troubled past, the current progress, and the promising future of Afghanistan. He called upon Congress to continue aiding Afghanistan in rebuilding a society that has been caught in an ideological crossfire for the past 25 years.

The United States was duly congratulated for completed work toward rebuilding Afghanistan and admonished for ignoring the Taliban's oppression until the regime's extremism was manifested so tragically in the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. In his speech, President Karzai affirmed the importance of our presence in Afghanistan. We are in Afghanistan today not to dictate what Afghanistan will become, but to ensure an environment of stability and freedom that fosters democracy and true self-determination.

I commend President Karzai for the progress that already has been made—most recently the opening of the International Press

Centre, which marked an important step toward the development of a free press. Today, five million Afghan girls and boys are attending school. The economy is estimated to have grown by 20 percent this year, and 3.8 million people have registered to vote, of which 35.4 percent are female. Health centers have been developed to provide basic services, especially to women and children.

The national army and the national police are being rebuilt. Three million refugees have returned to the country. Girls are returning to schools where their presence was once forbidden. Women, invisible under Taliban rule, are returning to the public sphere, where they can once again be productive members of society, contributing to cultural and economic growth. In the parliament, 25 percent of the seats have been reserved for women. Slowly but surely, Afghanistan is being rebuilt.

Despite this progress, our job is not yet complete. Our presence is needed until fair elections under a democratic system can be guaranteed to the people of Afghanistan. Private militias must be disarmed and disbanded. The production of narcotics must cease. Clean water and electricity must reach the Afghan people and health care must improve.

"Afghanistan is open for business and American companies are most welcome," Karzai stated. "Together, we will make Afghanistan a great success and an enduring example of a prosperous democratic society. Our shared success in Afghanistan is vital to achieving victory over the greatest menace the world faces today—terrorism and extremism." Afghanistan deserves to make its goals a reality. We must ensure that Afghanistan has the dignity that is afforded by democracy and that is the right of every human being.

As someone who served in a war zone, I was most struck by President Karzai's gratitude to the American people: "I thank you and the people of this great country for your generosity and the commitment to our people. You have supported us with your resources, with your leadership in the world community, and most importantly with the precious lives of your soldiers." He recognized the sacrifice and valor of the American soldiers who volunteered their lives so that an oppressed people in a distant land could be free.

Upon hearing President Karzai's words, I was reminded of Pat Tillman, the National Football League recruit who gave up a multi-million dollar contract to serve as an Army Ranger and lost his life in Afghanistan. Tillman refused interviews on the grounds that he was no better than any soldier who had volunteered to serve in the Armed Forces. His humility, his willingness to give up a comfortable life for a difficult one, his commitment to protecting American values and fighting tyranny proved him to be a true American hero.

I congratulate President Karzai on the progress he has made toward rebuilding Afghanistan. Our troops will continue to serve in that land so that a long-suffering people can prosper freely. I offer my whole-hearted support to him and the people of Afghanistan in building a nation where power lies once again in the hands of its people.

AMERICAN JOBS CREATION ACT
OF 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today the House is considering legislation touted as a bill to create jobs and help our struggling manufacturing industry when in fact it does nothing of the sort. Instead, H.R. 4520 would give U.S. multinational corporations more incentive to ship jobs overseas, adds \$34 billion to the deficit and includes billions in tax breaks for special interests, while failing to help small businesses. Small business firms create 75 percent of all new U.S. jobs every year and should be receiving tax relief in today's legislation.

In addition to a \$10 billion tobacco buyout, this legislation includes tax breaks for special interests such as bow and arrow makers, tackle box companies, and sonar fish finders. Unfortunately the House Republican leadership chose to use the FSC/ETI repeal to provide a broad and complex tax break for large corporations, rather than more focused relief that would also benefit smaller manufacturers and farm cooperatives that create jobs and have production solely in the U.S.

Even the Bush Administration has expressed concern over several of the provisions of the bill. This legislation, by offering tax relief to manufacturing firms, but not giving a clear definition of what a manufacturing firm is, creates incentive for firms to characterize themselves as in manufacturing opening the tax code up to new abuses. For example, efforts have already been underway to include food processing and the mixing of water and concentrate to make a soft drink in the definition of manufacturing. Congress should not be creating incentives for businesses to manipulate their services.

There is a bipartisan proposal in Congress to stop the sanctions and create American jobs, but the Republican leadership blocked Democrats from offering this legislation as a substitute. This substitute would strike the provisions that promote shipping jobs overseas, add provisions to create more jobs in the U.S. by giving tax relief to American manufacturing including small business and farmers, and strikes the narrow special interest provisions. Furthermore the substitute is paid for by cracking down on tax shelters and corporations and individuals that move abroad to avoid paying taxes.

I strongly support providing tax relief to our manufacturing firms, businesses and family farmers, but it is irresponsible to only provide tax relief to large multinational corporations. I urge my colleagues to oppose this legislation and instead pass a bill that would provide benefits to all U.S. manufacturing firms, big and small, without the costly special interest buyoffs found in this legislation.