

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALTICOR
INCORPORATED

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 1, 2005

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Alticor Incorporated, on being honored with the 2005 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. This is an honor bestowed to employers who have gone above and beyond in supporting their National Guard and Reserve employees.

Alticor's communication with its military employees when in action, covering pay differential during deployments and their Military Leave Program are just a few of the many ways the company has demonstrated support for the Guard and Reserves. Alticor has also donated numerous products which have been distributed to deployed units worldwide.

I commend Alticor's contribution to military families. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Alticor Incorporated, for being honored with the 2005 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award.

THANKS TO THOMAS DILENCE

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 1, 2005

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give thanks to Thomas DiLence, Chief Counsel DiLence, Chief Counsel and Policy Director of the Committee on Homeland Security.

Tom has been a dedicated and accomplished public servant throughout his 9 years on Capitol Hill—2 years in his current position, and 7 years before that on the House Energy and Commerce Committee. Tom has had a truly impressive career of government service. Most recently, he managed the successful House passage of major legislation to reform our system of homeland security grants—the Faster and Smarter Funding for First Responders Act of 2005—and the first-ever Department of Homeland Security Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006. He also was actively involved in drafting and negotiating the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act last year, the bill that codified into law many of the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission.

Perhaps most important, however, Tom worked to establish a permanent Homeland Security Committee in the House of Representatives. He joined the fledgling Select Committee on Homeland Security 2 years ago, and worked tirelessly to ensure the transition of the Select Committee to the now permanent Committee on Homeland Security in the 109th Congress. During his tour with the Select Committee, Tom's keen mind, legislative expertise, and dogged determination helped to firmly establish the Committee as a force on Capitol Hill, and contributed greatly to the establishment of the permanent Committee on Homeland Security. Tom was always the first to arrive and the last to leave. As the Select Committee's primary interface

with other Congressional committees and the House Leadership, and in the face of significant resistance, he helped craft the jurisdiction of the new Committee to ensure that it could provide meaningful authorization and guidance to, and oversight of, the critical new Department of Homeland Security. As the largest reorganization of the Congressional branch in over 50 years, and as the first creation of a permanent congressional committee in over 30 years, this is an accomplishment of major significance—with real and lasting impact on the future of this House and the citizens of this great Nation.

It is appropriate that Tom should end this phase of his Hill career on such a high note with the youngest committee in the House of Representatives, but I would be remiss if I did not note some of Tom's other major accomplishments over the years. As the Deputy Chief Counsel for Oversight and Investigations, and a principal national security policy advisor, for the oldest standing committee in the House, the Energy and Commerce Committee, Tom led numerous successful investigations and helped pass important consumer protection and homeland security legislation, including the Homeland Security Act of 2002, which created the Department of Homeland Security.

Tom was an invaluable and talented member of the Energy and Commerce Committee's oversight and investigations staff, and played a key role in landmark Congressional investigations. In 2000, Bridgestone/Firestone announced a voluntary recall of 14.4 million tires following an investigation by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), spurred on by reports and complaints of tread separation of certain tire models, mostly on Ford Explorers. Approximately 271 fatalities and more than 800 injuries were linked to tread separation and rollover incidents involving under-inflated Firestone tires and Ford vehicles. Tom's tireless work during this Congressional investigation, and the nationally-recognized hearings he organized on this topic, uncovered the extent to which Firestone and Ford knew of these safety problems and kept them hidden from the public and from Federal regulators. This investigation also highlighted serious deficiencies in NHTSA's ability to adequately detect and investigate safety-related defects in motor vehicles and related equipment.

The Ford-Firestone investigation led to swift Congressional legislative action to protect American motorists. The Transportation Recall Enhancement, Accountability, and Documentation (TREAD) Act became law in the Fall of 2000. The legislation required that auto and tire makers promptly report serious safety concerns with their products, and gave NHTSA new authority to require improvements in auto and tire safety, including the tire pressure monitoring systems that many new vehicles now have. Tom's work on this investigation that resulted in the TREAD Act undoubtedly improved public safety on our roads and highways.

Tom also played a lead part in the Committee's vital investigation of the Enron and Arthur Andersen corporate fraud and accounting scandal, including the controversy surrounding the accounting firm's shredding of relevant documents just as government investigations got underway. Through a comprehensive investigation and series of public hearings, the

Committee revealed a web of corporate fraud aided and abetted by auditors too willing to look the other way. The astonishing discoveries contributed to Andersen's indictment on federal felony charges, and led to Congressional passage of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act—the single most important piece of legislation affecting corporate governance, financial disclosure, and the practice of public accounting since the U.S. securities laws of the early 1930s. The Act helps to protect average investors and shareholders, and ensure the independence of auditors on which they rely.

Even before the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, Tom took a keen interest in homeland security issues. In 1999, he led an investigation into the lack of security controls on the possession and use of deadly biological agents such as anthrax by private and academic laboratories and research facilities all across the country. After the anthrax mail attacks of October 2001, Tom's knowledge of the issue led to his involvement as a key drafter of the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002—which, among other things, imposed registration and security requirements on those obtaining and using deadly biological agents in legitimate research.

Shortly thereafter, Tom was called upon again to lead the effort to draft and enact President Bush's signature initiative to combat bioterrorism, the Project BioShield Act. This Act, which passed in 2004, aims to spur the development and availability of next generation countermeasures against biological, chemical, nuclear, and radiological weapons. As the President noted at the bill's Rose Garden signing ceremony, "America is stronger and better as a result of the BioShield law."

No man stands alone, and Tom would be the first to acknowledge that his amazing success is the result of the teamwork of many people. Ask anyone on the Hill about Tom, however, and you will hear a unanimous opinion attesting to Tom's intellect, photographic memory, leadership, and ability to build strong teams and find consensus.

On behalf of the Committee, I want to thank Tom's wife of 12 years, Linda, and his three children, Madison (7), Maguire (5), and Donovan (2), for all the hours Tom spent away from them. Clearly, they are Tom's inspiration, and his success is their success. Finally, I want to thank Tom for his hard work, tireless service, and steadfast determination. We will miss Tom. He helped to build the Committee on Homeland Security. He now leaves it a stronger and better place than when he arrived. And his efforts have helped make America a more safe and secure place for us all.

IN MEMORY OF DAN JOSEPH
PICKARD

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 1, 2005

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Dr. Dan Joseph Pickard who passed away on Thursday the 20th of October. I was greatly saddened to hear the news that Dr. Pickard had passed, and I will be keeping his wife, Patty, and surviving family members in my prayers during this very difficult time for the Pickard family.