

Kawneer Company which is celebrating its 100th anniversary on May 5 at its facility in Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania.

Founded by Francis J. Plym, an architect, in 1906 in Kansas City, Missouri, the Kawneer Company distinguished itself in the field of architectural products, earning more than 400 patents in the past century.

Between 1910 and 1920, Kawneer developed the first metal air frame sections used in American aircraft, an achievement that earned the company a commendation from the U.S. War Department.

Between 1920 and 1930, Kawneer became the first manufacturer to incorporate lightweight, strong, economical aluminum in architectural products including ornate grills and soffits.

From 1930 to 1940, nearly 75 percent of Kawneer's business centered on aluminum, and Kawneer became the largest American user of aluminum for architectural purposes.

Months after the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, every inch of the Kawneer plant was devoted to making airplane parts. American soldiers flew into battle supported by Kawneer rib assemblies, fuel tank supports, flap controls and many other aviation components.

For the past half century, Kawneer has been in the vanguard of architectural innovation, especially with regard to large commercial window applications.

In the future, Kawneer intends to commit itself to developing sustainable environmental solutions, such as the Kawneer Power Wall, the first proven integrated photovoltaic curtain wall system designed to control the sun in large commercial buildings.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Kawneer Company, which employs 400 people in its Bloomsburg facility. Its impressive sales performance over the past 2 years saw gross sales double from \$51 to \$100 million. Clearly, Kawneer is an important part of northeastern Pennsylvania's economy and we wish them every success in the future.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 2830, PENSION PROTECTION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 3, 2006

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Mr. MILLER's motion to instruct the conferees on H.R. 2830, the so-called Pension Security and Transparency Act.

I opposed the Republican pension legislation that passed this body late last year because it will erode an employer's willingness to provide defined benefit plans and will close the loopholes that allow companies to dump their pension obligations onto taxpayers.

In addition to these effects, it offers insufficient protections to loyal workers and gives special treatment to executives for their compensation and pension packages. It is this specific problem that we are addressing today.

ExxonMobil's outgoing CEO, R. Lee Raymond recently secured a total retirement package valued at \$400 million, including a \$98 million windfall in the form of a lump sum pension payment. This is just one more example

of huge executive compensation at the same time that workers are losing their retirement security and earned and needed benefits.

Under the House Republican pension legislation passed last year, if an employer allows a pension plan to become less than 80 percent funded, the covered workers cannot receive benefit increases, cost of living adjustments, or lump sum pension payments. The legislation holds executives to a different, and much cushier, standard. Executives can continue to pad their own compensation packages with corporate assets until plan funding drops below 60 percent.

We must establish fairness in the pension process and level the playing field so that CEOs and workers are subject to the same benefit rules. This motion would accomplish that goal, instructing conferees to apply the same benefit restrictions for workers and retirees, and CEOs. This is a vital step that we can take to restore a vital sense of fairness to the compensation and pension process.

I encourage my colleagues to support this motion.

A TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT LEA MILLS

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an American soldier who gave his life in service to our Nation.

Marine Sergeant Lea Mills of Masaryktown, Florida was killed by a terrorist IED explosion last week while on patrol in Iraq. Sergeant Mills was 21 years old, and leaves behind a young wife and a grieving family.

Dedicated to serving his country, Sergeant Mills joined the Marines following his graduation from Hernando High School in 2002. Lea felt that the Marines would give him the best opportunity to serve his Nation on the front lines and make a difference in people's lives.

When I spoke to Sergeant Mills' father Rob, he told me that Lea was inspired to volunteer for the military after the September 11 attacks.

Not only did Sergeant Mills request to be sent to Iraq, but he also felt that it was his duty as a Marine and that it was the right thing to do for his country.

A dedicated soldier, Sergeant Mills understood what the Marines' mission was in Iraq. As his father Rob said to me, "He believed very strongly in what he was doing." In fact, Lea had recently just re-upped for a second stint with the Marines.

Sergeant Mills leaves behind his wife Keesha Malicoate, his parents Dee and Rob Mills, and his brother Parker Mills.

Mr. Speaker, it is soldiers like Sergeant Lea Mills who have volunteered to protect the freedoms that all Americans hold dear.

While brave men and women like Lea have perished in the cause of freedom and liberty, his family, friends and loved ones should know that this Congress will never forget their sacrifice and commitment.

CELEBRATING PROGRESS IN THE U.S. MOX PROGRAM

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, in 2000, the United States and Russia agreed to dispose of surplus, weapon-grade plutonium by turning it into MOX fuel for use in existing, commercial nuclear reactors. South Carolina was thrilled when its Savannah River site was chosen to fulfill this important mission.

While the United States has initiated its responsibilities, Russia's program has not proceeded as quickly. Yesterday, I offered an amendment to ensure that the pace of the Russia MOX program will not dictate the progress of the U.S. MOX program. The amendment also restores \$34.7 million in funding for the construction of the MOX facility at SRS.

By passing my amendment, my colleagues on the House Armed Services Committee have helped create hundreds of jobs in South Carolina and guarantee that our state will not become the permanent resting place for tons of plutonium. I will continue to work with my directly affected colleagues GRESHAM BARRETT, and CHARLIE NORWOOD to support the Savannah River site as it moves forward with this important mission.

In conclusion, God bless our troops and we will never forget September 11th.

RECOGNIZING COLONEL YVONNE J. PRETTYMAN-BECK, COMMANDER OF THE NORFOLK ENGINEER DISTRICT, NORFOLK CORPS OF ENGINEERS, VIRGINIA FOR HER SERVICE AND DEDICATION

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2006

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Colonel Yvonne J. Prettyman-Beck, Commander and Norfolk District Engineer, for her loyal service to the United States Corps of Engineers and to the people of Virginia's Fourth District.

Over the past 3 years, I have had the fortunate opportunity to work with Colonel Prettyman-Beck on numerous occasions. I commend her leadership in advancing the growth and preservation of numerous projects of great value in our district and the Commonwealth of Virginia. Her hard work and integrity will be greatly missed upon her reassignment from the Norfolk District post she has held since August 2003.

With over 24 years of service in the U.S. Army, Colonel Prettyman-Beck's devotion to duty has reflected the highest standards of the military profession. Following graduation from the New Mexico Military Institute, she went on to obtain a Master of Science degree in Management Science and a Master of Science degree in National Security and Strategic Studies. She has served on numerous assignments throughout the U.S. and overseas. Her military education is extensive and includes