

In Florida and around the country, roadway congestion and driver shortages are already making it difficult for trucking companies to expand capacity. Freight shipping by rail is encountering serious capacity problems in some regions, as well. And, recent estimates indicate that overall freight traffic will continue to increase exponentially in the coming years—up as much as 70 percent by 2020.

Madam Speaker, we are presented with a choice as we seek to address this capacity crunch: We can try to engineer our way out of the current situation at hundreds of billions of dollars in new federal expenditures. Or, we can find alternate innovative modes of transportation that will help absorb some of the traffic our growing economy continues to create.

While we must continue to invest in our surface transportation infrastructure, I believe that an alternative, environmentally sound mode of transportation is at our fingertips that will lessen highway congestion, save energy, and reduce air pollution.

Short sea shipping, or what I call the “Blue Water Highway,” involves shipping cargo by sea between U.S. ports. By establishing a “highway” along our coast where smaller cargo ships travel from port to port along the Eastern Seaboard, Gulf Coast, Pacific Coastline, and the Great Lakes, we have the opportunity to significantly reduce highway congestion in an environmentally friendly and economically sound manner. Additionally, sea-based shipping would mitigate against wear and tear on our highways, potentially delaying the need for expensive taxpayer-funded improvement projects and allowing such funds instead to be used to free traffic congestion.

Though getting the Blue Water Highway up and running is no small task, I believe that a modest tax policy change provided in my legislation would significantly encourage the development of a short sea shipping industry.

The Blue Water Highway Act of 2007 would amend the Internal Revenue Code to exempt cargo shipped between U.S. mainland ports from the harbor maintenance tax. This simple tax reform would remove the primary prohibitive cost to short sea shipping, allowing designated cargo vessels to travel from Port Canaveral in Florida, to Baltimore, and then onto New York and Bridgeport, Conn. making other port calls along the way without having to pay the cargo tax each time it enters a port.

Madam Speaker, amending the harbor maintenance tax is a reasonable policy objective that would go a long way toward moving short sea shipping from the backwater of the shipping industry.

HONORING THE BREESE CENTRAL
LADY COUGARS BASKETBALL
TEAM

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 26, 2007

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the Breese Central Lady Cougars basketball team on their success in winning the championship game of the 28th annual Class A state tournament at Redbird Arena in Normal, Illinois.

Jessica Hemann, Courtney Strieker, Leann Voss, Britni Holtmann, K.C. Root, Christy

Rolfingsmeyer, Katie Robben, Kelsie Netemeyer, Katelin Wiegmann, Tiffany Himes, Katie Scheer, Lauren Budde, and Cassandra Deiters make up this victorious team of athletes, which are lead by Head Coach Nathan Rueter and Assistant Coaches Angela Witte and Kelly Hasheider.

The Number 11 State-Ranked Breese Central ladies received medals after winning against Number 9 State-Ranked Rochester in a 47–41 victory.

I am very pleased to congratulate the Breese Central Lady Cougars on their victory and wish them the best of luck for next season.

TRIBUTE TO DOLORES HUERTA

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 26, 2007

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to voice my strong support for H. Res. 37. This resolution honors Dolores Huerta for her commitment to protecting the rights of women and children everywhere, and improving the lives of farm workers.

I want to thank my colleague from California, Rep. HILDA SOLIS, for sponsoring this resolution.

Since 1955, Dolores Huerta has been a pre-eminent figure in the civil rights movement. She has dedicated her life to fighting for the rights of workers, women, and children. Dolores has lived a life full of compassion and love for her fellow man. Her actions helped to change the way farm workers were treated and further established fair treatment and respectable working conditions for them.

As a strong female leader, Dolores Huerta defied cultural and gender stereotypes. She has been awarded the Eleanor D. Roosevelt Human Rights Award and was inducted into the Women’s Hall of Fame in 1993. Together with Cesar Chavez, she founded the National Farm Workers Association, now the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee.

Beyond her professional work, she is a proud mother of 11 children and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

I urge my colleagues to send a message of support for the rights of all workers and to honor the accomplishments of a true revolutionary, Dolores Huerta, by supporting H. Res. 37.

RECOGNIZING LOYOLA UNIVERSITY
CHICAGO’S CENTER FOR
PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 26, 2007

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize; Loyola University Chicago for its enduring commitment to community service and its creation of the Center for Public Service. I am pleased that the Center will house the congressional papers of former Congressman Henry J. Hyde and former Congressman Dan Rostenkowski.

Loyola’s Center for Public Service will undertake the task of encouraging citizens to

dedicate their lives to civil service and government. Through research and discourse, this non-partisan academic unit will increase education on important policy issues.

Both Congressman Hyde and Congressman Rostenkowski attended Loyola, so it seems fitting that their work will be preserved there.

Congressman Hyde recently retired from Congress after serving the people of the Sixth district of Illinois for 15 terms. The former Dean of the Illinois delegation served as Chairman of the Judiciary Committee from 1995–2001 and was later Chairman of the International Relations Committee.

Congressman Rostenkowski, or Mr. Chairman as he is still known, served my district in the House and was a legislative force for 34 years. As the Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, he played an important role in tax and trade policy for thirteen years.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Loyola University Chicago for its creation of the Center for Public Service and its collection of the congressional papers of former Congressmen Henry J. Hyde and Dan Rostenkowski. I wish its faculty, staff and students the best of luck as they pursue lives of public service.

TRIBUTE TO SAM MURPHEY FOR A
LIFETIME OF DEDICATED SERV-
ICE TO THE NATION AND THE
PEOPLE OF CENTRAL TEXAS

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 26, 2007

Mr. EDWARDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated public servant of the people of Central Texas, Sam Murphey. Sam is about to embark on a well-deserved retirement after 22 years of service in the U.S. Army and 16 years looking after the needs of the people of Central Texas as my right-hand man and District Director.

Sam Murphey is a decorated soldier and veteran whose distinguished service in the United States Army and his service to the constituents of Central Texas is unparalleled in my experience. The positive impact Sam has had is immeasurable and proof that one person can truly make a difference in the lives of others. Sam is known by many names: husband, father, grandfather, motivator, leader, and confidante. I join the many others who are fortunate to call him “friend”.

Sam graduated from the University of Texas in 1967 earning a bachelors degree in business administration and a commission in the Regular Army of the United States as a 2nd Lieutenant of Field Artillery. Sam later earned his master of science degree in management from the University of Central Texas in 1981 and he has completed an additional 18 post-graduate hours of study in political science.

Following his graduation from the University of Texas, Sam began a 22-year career in the U.S. Army that took him to assignments in the United States, Europe, Korea and Vietnam. He spent his combat tour in Vietnam as a Field Artillery Forward Observer and Liaison Officer with the 173rd Airborne Brigade. Other notable experiences during his military career include a teaching assignment in the Gunnery Department of the U.S. Army Field Artillery School, graduation from the Marine Corps

Command and Staff College, and an assignment at the U.S. Air Force Academy as Air Officer Commanding of Cadet Squadron 29. He retired from the Army at Fort Hood, Texas on October 1, 1989.

In March 1991, as a newly elected Congressman, I was wise enough to hire Sam as my primary contact for the military and veterans communities in what was then District 11. Sam excelled in that role and became the District Director in January 1996. As a local veterans leader, his counsel and advice have been indispensable over the years.

Among many other accomplishments, Sam played a key leadership role in the successful fight to save the Waco VA hospital from closure and helped make it into a national center of excellence. The massive modernization of Fort Hood in the 1990s had Sam Murphey's fingerprints all over it. Countless soldiers and their families have benefited from Sam's hard work to make dramatic improvements in barracks, housing, and training facilities at Fort Hood. Sam was also instrumental in opening Gray Army Airfield to commercial aviation, providing land for the Central Texas Veterans Cemetery and Tarleton State's upper level institution in Killeen.

As a district director, it goes without saying that Sam is very active in local community affairs, but he also spends much of his free time to give back to the community. He continues to serve as Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of Heart O' Texas Federal Credit Union. He is a past president of the University of Central Texas Alumni Association, and has taught government and business classes at the University of Central Texas and Central Texas College as a member of their adjunct faculty. He is a past chairman of the Harker Heights Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and served 6 years as Commissioner on the Harker Heights Planning and Zoning Commission. He is a co-founder of the Harker Heights Economic Development Corporation and is a past president of the Central Texas—Fort Hood Chapter of the Association of the United States Army and of the Central Texas Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America. He is a graduate of Leadership Temple and Leadership Killeen and is a co-founder of the Leadership Belton program. He was recently named Chairman of the Harker Heights Chamber of Commerce Military Affairs Committee.

Sam and his wonderful wife Peggy, his much, much better half, are retiring at the same time to enjoy their beautiful family together in Harker Heights, Texas. Peggy is retiring after a career of service to the soldiers and families at Fort Hood, a place that I had the privilege to represent for 14 years and is very close to my heart. The Good Lord has blessed Sam and Peggy with two children, Steven and Kathleen and five grandchildren, Samantha and Steven Murphey, Hartley, Elle and Sophia Corsi.

May the Good Lord continue to watch over them and as Sam is fond of saying, "bless their little hearts."

Thank you, Sam for your personal friendship and for your service to the people of Central Texas and the citizens of our Nation. We wish you and your family all the best in the years ahead.

TRIBUTE TO GARY PLAYER

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 26, 2007

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to carry on a tradition started by the late Congressman Charlie Norwood, whose death this year was a great loss to Georgia and the U.S. House of Representatives. Each year on the eve of the Masters golf tournament in his hometown of Augusta, GA., Congressman Norwood would honor a golfer of great acclaim before his colleagues in the House.

This year, that tribute belongs to Gary Player, a world-renowned golfer whose accomplishments extend far beyond the links. In April, Mr. Player will tee up at the Augusta National for the Masters tournament for the 50th consecutive year, a remarkable achievement of longevity in any career. Few events in sports compare to the grace and beauty of the Masters tournament, and for a half century, Mr. Player has played an important role in one of the most cherished and most watched sporting events in the world.

Gary Player's record is the envy of countless golfers. It includes 159 victories worldwide. He holds nine major championships including: three Masters, three British Opens, two U.S. Opens and one PGA Championship. In addition, he has won the World Match Play Championship four times.

Outside the game of golf, Mr. Player has dedicated his life to family—he is celebrating his 50th wedding anniversary this year—and to serving the underprivileged.

In 1983, he established the Gary Player Foundation to address the education crisis in South Africa. The Player family started the Blair Atholl School—complete with a primary school of 400 students, a pre-elementary school for 75, a community resource center and a sports complex. The foundation ensures high-quality education, a nutritional feeding scheme and basic medical care for each child. Besides his foundation, Gary Player hosts the annual Nelson Mandela Invitational Golf Tournament, one of the largest charity events in South Africa. To recognize his many achievements, Gary Player was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws from the Saint Andrews University in 1995.

Gary Player has lived an incredible life and he doesn't take those blessings for granted. He has said, "I have been so lucky with golf, with my family, with my health, all I can be is thankful." Let us wish him continued luck and thanks for his accomplishments on and off the course. Mr. Player, good luck in Augusta.

ON THE INTRODUCTION OF THE DHS SAFE ACT TO ENHANCE THE SECURITY OF DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY BADGES, IDENTIFICATION CARDS, UNIFORMS, AND PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 26, 2007

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, today I have introduced, together with my colleagues from the Committee on Homeland Security, Chairman Thompson of Mississippi and Mr. Rogers of Alabama, legislation that will prevent terrorists or others with bad intent from posing as Homeland Security officials or officers. This common sense bill will require the Department of Homeland Security to make sure that sensitive material—badges, identification cards, uniforms, and protective gear—is made in the United States. As these items would be vulnerable to theft in transit, it just makes sense to make sure they start and stay in America.

When the Department of Homeland Security buys identification cards overseas, there is no system in place to ensure that they are not stolen and misappropriated by terrorists, who could then pass into restricted areas with fraudulent credentials. In countries with less robust ethical and management standards for business, manufacturers might even be willing to sell uniforms or badges to the highest bidder. The men and women who serve in positions that protect our security are put at risk by a policy that does not secure these materials, and the practice of purchasing them overseas without appropriate safeguards must end.

It is certainly not uncommon for cargo to be hijacked or lost, particularly in the staging areas at our Nation's ports of entry. The potential theft of uniforms, badges, or ID cards by the truckload pose a clear threat. These items are meant to serve as validation that those charged with securing our country are who they say they are; misappropriation is unacceptable.

This legislation will not slow down the Department at all with regard to purchases; it merely ensures that sensitive materials are kept securely inside the United States when appropriate. The bill contains a waiver for small purchases and for material that will be used outside of the United States. It gives the Department the flexibility to procure materials outside of the United States if necessary and as long as steps are taken to prevent misappropriation.

This legislation is focused and targeted at the area of greatest risk in procurement. I urge my colleagues in the House of Representatives to support it.