

Brittani Stewart, Bryan Hartley, Travis Ryder, Stacey Ryder, Stacey Byrd, Devin Barnes, Shawna Crafton, Brianna LaFleur, Sam Hartley, Sarah Stemple, Lindsay Gaskill, Jon Fleet, Josh Hall, Gunner Warlick, James Luna, Audra Mobley, Matt Cryer, Zach Brown, Megan Baker, Amber Scott, Katie Freeman, Chelsea Moore, Amber Barnes, Lauren French, Keisha Sherrill, Sara Lubieski, Reilly Rowland, Learyn Miller, Bethany Gamble, Taylor Herron and Jessie Baker.

HONORING ELEANOR WRIGHT

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 22, 2008

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the memory of Eleanor Wright; a distinguished member of the Santa Barbara community. Eleanor's life was marked by service to our society and love for her family.

Eleanor Wright, a native of Ohio and a longtime Santa Barbara resident, attended the Ethel Walker School and Bennington College where she earned a bachelor of arts degree in psychology. Over 50 years ago, she married Clifford Ramsey Wright Jr., who served honorably in our Nation's armed services.

The Wrights moved to the Santa Barbara area in 1959. Immediately upon arrival, Eleanor proved herself to be a key leader in the community by advocating for social justice in a variety of fields. The Santa Barbara Mental Health Association, the Citizens Planning Association, the Family Service Agency, the Community Counseling Association, and the Santa Barbara Civil Service Commission benefited from Eleanor's tireless work on many of her committees. She also co-founded the Phoenix House of Santa Barbara, a facility designed to help mental health patients transition back into the community. In addition to her devotion through service, Eleanor supported a large number of community based action groups which work to make Santa Barbara a healthy and vital community.

Eleanor's legacy will be remembered by her husband, 4 sons, daughter, 12 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren, and all of her extended family. As a woman who committed her life to serving others, Eleanor's passing has been deeply felt by the many that were touched by her life. The Santa Barbara community will miss an invaluable community leader and a friend. Please join me in honoring this exemplary American.

CONDEMNING ASSASSINATION OF FORMER PAKISTANI PRIME MINISTER BENAZIR BHUTTO AND REAFFIRMING COMMITMENT OF UNITED STATES TO ASSIST PEOPLE OF PAKISTAN

SPEECH OF

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I support H. Res. 912, a resolution condemning the assassination of former Pakistani

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and reaffirming the commitment of the United States to assist the people of Pakistan in combating terrorist activity and promoting a free and democratic Pakistan.

The 27th of December will be remembered as a mournful day for all of the people of Pakistan and people of goodwill the world over. My deepest sympathies and condolences are with them. As a member of the United States Congress' Congressional Pakistan Caucus, I am deeply saddened by this dastardly effort to circumvent the democratic process which has claimed the life of former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

The assassination of former Prime Minister Bhutto is viewed by many as an attempt to thwart Pakistan's efforts to help restore stability and democracy. Regrettably, since 2001, the security situation in Pakistan has grown increasingly unstable. There have been at least six assassination attempts against President Pervez Musharraf over the past several years.

Additionally, former Pakistani Prime Minister Bhutto was the target of numerous threats and a previous assassination attempt. In route to a rally in Karachi on October 18, 2007, two explosions occurred shortly after Bhutto left Jinnah International Airport. She was not injured, but the explosions, later found to be a suicide-bomb attack, killed 136 people and injured at least 450. The dead included at least 50 of the security guards from her Pakistan Peoples Party.

Mrs. Bhutto represented the hopes and aspirations of numerous Pakistanis who wished to turn the page on instability and extremism. Mrs. Bhutto sought to change Pakistan with a determination that should have been challenged with ballots, not bullets and bombs.

The Pakistani government's decision to request that the United Kingdom's Scotland Yard Counter Terrorism Command provide support and assistance in the investigation into the murder of Benazir Bhutto will not be enough if the Pakistani people want more. It is exceedingly important that the people of Pakistan believe that a credible transparent investigation is conducted and that all lawful efforts are pursued to bring the perpetrators of the atrocious crime to justice. One of the best ways to accomplish this is to establish a "Truth Commission" of a capable, competent, and credible cross section of Pakistanis. Additionally, it is of the greatest importance that elections be conducted in a fair, transparent and democratic manner after considered input about the process from political parties.

The future of Pakistan will effect our global security. Pro-Taliban militants and their al-Qaeda allies must not find refuge. Homicidal extremists pose a threat to Pakistan and its neighbors and must not be allowed to offset the winds of democratic change. We in the United States can offer support to Pakistan conditioned on free and fair elections along with a credible transparent investigation.

The noble cause of perfecting the democratization of Pakistan is in the hands of the people of Pakistan. Although international partners can assist in this effort, the future of Pakistan must be hammered out by the people of Pakistan.

Although, this tragic event may call into question the future of democracy in Pakistan, people of goodwill in Pakistan, regardless of political persuasion, must continue the movement to enhance democratic institutions

across their nation knowing that freedom, justice, and democracy are difficult to achieve.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF RAY ALEXANDER

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 22, 2008

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Ray Alexander on his retirement from KRGV television station in Weslaco, TX. His dedication to providing and bringing the news to the Rio Grande Valley has been an invaluable service.

Mr. Alexander has served as general manager for KRGV for 26 years. During his time at the television station, KRGV has become a leader in both national and local news, covering the most important stories and issues of the Valley community. The station has been honored with several regional Edward R. Murrow awards, one National Edward R. Murrow award and an Emmy award. The station has also received the Texas Association of Broadcasters Bonner McClain Award.

The tremendous responsibility of managing a TV station has not stopped Mr. Alexander from serving in civic affairs. He has served in leadership positions for both the National Association of Broadcasters and Texas Association of Broadcasters. He won two of the Texas Association of Broadcasters' most prestigious awards—"Broadcaster of the Year" in 1988 and the "Pioneer of the Year" in 2002.

Mr. Alexander has also gained prominence for his community and charitable work. He has dedicated much of his time to the South Texas Chapter of the United Way; the McAllen, TX chapter of the Boys and Girls Club; and won the Easter Seals Society Rio Grande Valley Chapter "Humanitarian of the Year" in 2001.

As the area continues to grow and face new challenges, it is important to always have dedicated journalists to better inform our citizens. I have had a great working relationship with Mr. Alexander and KRGV throughout my congressional career. As Mr. Alexander moves on, I look forward to working with KRGV in the future in keeping our community abreast of the important issues.

There is no doubt that Mr. Alexander will continue to be an inspirational leader in south Texas. I wish him and his family the best as he moves on to another fulfilling chapter in his life.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION EXPANDING SECTION 179 SMALL BUSINESS EXPENSING

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 22, 2008

Mr. HERGER. Madam Speaker, in Congress's rush to enact some manner of short-term economic stimulus, we should not lose sight of the bigger picture, that is, that the long-run prosperity of the American worker and his or her family depends on sustained and not one-time economic growth. In general, while economic growth is dependent on many

factors, one of its chief determinants is certainty and predictability. It is for this reason that I believe we must act now to extend the critical tax relief of the last 6 years. Industry is already making operational decisions today based on the business environment of tomorrow, and it is troubling to think that, absent any signals from Washington to the contrary, they are expecting tax increases. It is also time to focus our attention on other elements of our long-term economic prosperity, and that includes America's competitive position relative to our largest global competitors. I am concerned that we have some of the highest business taxes among the top economies in the world. This is something that we must work to change if we hope to compete in the 21st century.

One of our country's most valuable assets is our workforce, and fostering the continued competitiveness of this asset is a growing challenge. This is one of the reasons I support small business expensing, both as a short-term and long-term tax policy. Workers grow and learn on the job, underscoring the critical importance of businesses keeping their doors open and expanding. Nearly two-thirds of all new job creation in the U.S. comes from small businesses. In the context of an economic stimulus, increasing small business expensing limits would help keep workers employed and even create new jobs as our country weathers an uncertain economic time.

How does small business expensing help? Second, when facing slower economic growth, and the potential for job loss, expensing frees up potentially affected businesses from spending so much of their cash flow on overhead, therefore enabling them to retain existing workers, hire new workers, and focus on expansion rather than just staying afloat. Expensing makes this possible by allowing companies to write-off 100 percent of new, otherwise depreciable assets immediately.

While my legislation would grant a short-term increase in the current law expensing limits, expensing makes for good long-term investment-focused tax policy as well. I look forward to working with others in the House and Senate to approve this measure, and continue the debate over long-term tax policies that really get at the bedrock of America's economic growth.

COMMEMORATING "MR. MENDOCINO" JOHN A. PARDUCCI FOR HIS OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO THE MENDOCINO COUNTY WINE INDUSTRY

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 22, 2008

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a legendary grape grower, winemaker and friend on the occasion of his 90th birthday. John Angelo Parducci has been in the wine business in Mendocino County for more than seven decades.

His contributions to the wine industry in Mendocino County, as well as to all of northern California, have helped one of the region's most important agricultural products grow to international acclaim. His lifelong commitment began at an early age.

The grandson of an Italian immigrant, John Parducci is a third generation winemaker. He was born on January 22, 1918, to Adolph Parducci and Isabella Katherine Lucchetti Parducci in the same house where his mother had been born, just south of the Mendocino County line. Adolph moved his family to Ukiah, and at about the same time Prohibition began, built Parducci Winery, the oldest in Mendocino County.

In 1933, 14-year-old John accompanied 40 train carloads of grapes his family was shipping to the east coast. When he returned to Ukiah, he took part in the first of a lifetime of grape harvests. He filled jugs from magnificent 50-gallon redwood tanks, some of which still exist at the old winery. Parducci was the first to bottle and label varietal wines in Mendocino County, the first to use Anderson Valley on a label and the first to promote Mendocino winemaking around the country.

In 1937, John Parducci married the love of his life Margaret Louise Romer. They had two sons. In 1960 he took over the winery from his father and continued with his passionate and opinionated quest to make great wine at an affordable price. The original Parducci Winery was recently purchased by the Mendocino Wine Company, which continues the label.

Not one to retire, however, in 1999, John Parducci and his grandson Rich, started McNab Ridge Winery in the pristine McNab Valley, where John hunted deer, turkey, and wild pigs in his younger years. His winemaking legacy continues under the McNab Ridge and John A. Parducci Signature Heritage Series labels.

Accolades and honors have poured in over the years. In 2003 he was awarded the California State Fair Lifetime Achievement Award. He has been America's Ambassador of Wine, recognized by the Wine Institute, and named winemaker of the year by the Los Angeles County Fair, the North Coast Knights of the Vine, the City of Los Angeles, and the Texas Knights of the Vine.

Over the years John has found time to give service to the community through his membership in the Masons, Rotary and Shriners in Ukiah. In 1999 he received the prestigious Norman Lippman Award in Nashville for his community service as well as his winemaking.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, John Parducci has earned the admiration and respect of his peers and left a positive legacy for the future of winemaking not only in Mendocino County, but all across our country. For these reasons, it is appropriate that we honor Mr. Mendocino—John Parducci.

SUPPLEMENTAL MINE IMPROVEMENT AND NEW EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. DAN BOREN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 16, 2008

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2768) to establish improved mandatory standards to protect miners during emergencies, and for other purposes:

Mr. BOREN. Mr. Chairman, I would first like to thank Chairman MILLER and the members

of his committee for their hard work and dedication to improving the safety of our Nation's mines and bringing this important issue to the forefront. As we all know, the tragic mining accidents of the last few years have made this a serious topic of national and public debate.

I am a strong supporter of increasing safety at our Nation's mines. This is why I strongly supported and voted for the MINER Act of 2006. Since its enactment, I have continued to support its complete implementation and I look forward to the mining industry reaching full compliance with its provisions.

While Chairman MILLER's bill, the S-MINER Act, aims to further strengthen mining industry safety and health standards, I have serious concerns about how this bill will affect local mining operations in my congressional district and the State of Oklahoma.

This new mining safety legislation will impose a one-size-fits-all set of safety standards and regulations upon the mining industry, regardless of a mining operation's differing characteristics or risk factors. Therefore, numerous surface mines in my district would be forced to comply with expensive Government regulations that do not enhance safety for their workers.

Fine increases and the process laid out in the S-MINER Act for evaluating and judging regulatory infractions are also matters of great concern to me. Requiring increased fines to be made in escrow, while a citation is investigated, may be reasonable for large mining companies. However, for the small mining operations in my district, this requirement would be financially crippling and is likely to precipitate the loss of valued jobs.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, it is my firm belief this new mine safety legislation comes far too soon after the enactment of the MINER Act of 2006. Currently the mining operations in my congressional district and the State of Oklahoma are working diligently to achieve full compliance with the new law. I am concerned the additional regulations and standards set forth in the S-MINER Act of 2008 will be financially overwhelming to an industry that is a vital supplier of jobs for my constituents. I believe it very well could reduce progress on implementing the achievements of the MINER Act.

It is for these reasons listed above, Mr. Chairman, I voted against the S-MINER Act when it came before the House floor for a vote. I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure the future sustainability and safety of our Nation's mines, which are integral to the vitality of our Nation's energy supply and strength of the American economy.

RECOGNIZING JOHN BRENNAN FROM NEW YORK

HON. MICHAEL A. ARCURI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 22, 2008

Mr. ARCURI. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of John Brennan, a resident of my congressional district in upstate New York, and his extraordinary record of service for World War II veterans.

In the spring of 2004, John formed a committee with the goal of giving World War II veterans from Herkimer County, New York, a historic once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see the