

take transit, use bicycles, and carpool have helped reduce carbon dioxide by half a million pounds. If one city can achieve such success in reducing emissions by changing transportation patterns, the possible emissions reductions through implementing a nationwide complete streets policy are staggering.

Madam Speaker, we live in a time when local governments are strapped for cash. In such a fiscal climate, we should make investments today that will pay out over the long term, and that will help us avoid the need to make costly adjustments to our current transportation system down the line. Incorporating complete streets principles today will help communities save precious dollars in the future by eliminating the need for costly retrofits.

I know this to be true because of the experience of my own congressional district, where the City of Sacramento is preparing to spend \$12 million to update a bridge that was built in the 1930s without adequate sidewalks. Another example of the power of complete streets to save money is from Illinois. There, the legislature passed a complete streets law last year after the state was forced to spend nearly a million dollars adding a foot and bike path to a bridge where several pedestrians and bicyclists were hit and killed by motorists.

But the bottom line, Madam Speaker, is that the Safe and Complete Streets Act of 2008 is good policy because of what it can help us do for our communities, not for the costs it can help us avoid. Encouraging people to use all the various modes of transportation available to them will strengthen public health, reduce congestion, improve air quality, and increase the interconnectedness of our communities. It will help create a national transportation network that works for all Americans regardless of their age, income, or preferred mode of getting around town.

The time has come for this Congress to start thinking about what we want the legacy of American transportation to be. I know I speak for many of my colleagues when I say that we want this to be one where all users of our streets feel safe and accommodated. The Safe and Complete Streets Act of 2008 is a first step toward creating this kind of practical, efficient, and inclusive transportation system, and I am proud to introduce it here today.

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#### HONORING DEBORAH MURDOCK

### HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2008*

Ms. HOOLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a long-time education advocate and friend, Deborah Murdock. As Special Assistant to the President at Portland State University, Debbie helped make PSU the top-tier university in Oregon that it currently is. We lost our friend Debbie on August 14, 2007, far too soon. I honor her today because on Sunday, May 4, 2008, Portland State University will dedicate the Debbie Murdock Memorial Clock Tower on their campus.

My first day in Washington, DC, as a new Member of Congress, Debbie was a friendly face who knew more about working in Congress than I did. Her experience with Congressman Les AuCoin was a great benefit for both of us. She knew what I needed to do to

successfully represent my constituents and specifically a certain university in the state's urban hub.

Debbie came to work for PSU in 1993 and almost immediately set goals for the university that may have seemed overly-optimistic and unattainable. She wanted to help the university provide the programs, research and student experience that the other Oregon institutions of higher learning were offering.

During her tenure, Debbie played a significant role in the building and establishment of the Native American Center, the Urban Center, the engineering building and others. She also was involved in the downtown revitalization and "greening" of the campus.

But Debbie's list of accomplishments doesn't end with facilities and structures. Debbie managed to affect almost every person she came into contact with by encouraging their professional or academic development and personal growth. She wanted everyone to be the best they could be and felt like she could help make that happen by being a friend, a mentor or a resource.

I am delighted that Portland State University is naming the new clock tower in honor of Debbie. The tower will be a part of PSU's vitality, energy and life for years to come, as will Debbie Murdock's memory.

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#### EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR H. MARTIN LANCASTER'S SERVICE AND FRIENDSHIP

### HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2008*

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the dedicated service of our former colleague, Martin Lancaster, to North Carolina and the Nation.

Martin retires today as President of the North Carolina Community College System, which he has led since 1997. The system enrolls more than 800,000 students in 58 comprehensive community colleges across the State. Internationally recognized for the scope and quality of its programs, the system is one of the largest in the county and North Carolina's primary provider of workforce preparation and adult education.

Martin has worked to increase State and private funding for facilities, equipment, faculty salaries, and instruction and to strengthen the system's essential role in workforce and economic development. He led community college participation in the successful State Higher Education Bond Referendum of 2000, which included \$600 million for community college construction, repair and renovation. He has worked successfully with successive presidents of the University of North Carolina system to ensure a seamless transition for students between community colleges and 4-year state institutions.

In his years as president, Martin and I have collaborated on a number of projects. We've worked hard on the Partnership Fellows Program to help address the serious teacher shortage by providing scholarships for individuals transitioning from associate degree programs in education to bachelor-degree granting institutions. He's helped ensure that future

Federal scholarships for prospective teachers will be available to community college students.

We also continue to promote funding from the National Science Foundation for the Advanced Technological Education, ATE, program to underwrite innovation and excellence in curriculum development, teaching methods, and public-private partnerships. The North Carolina system and individual campuses compete very successfully for this support.

Most recently, we have secured Department of Education funding for an innovative partnership among the North Carolina Symphony, the community college system, and local public school systems. Soloists and small ensembles from the Symphony will visit far-flung communities and, based in their community colleges, offer performances and classes for aspiring young musicians.

Prior to his work with the North Carolina Community College System, Martin served as assistant secretary of the Army for Civil Works from January 1996 until June 1997. Before that, he served as special advisor to President Bill Clinton on chemical weapons. Many Members of this body will remember his 8 years of distinguished service, representing his home town of Goldsboro and the rest of the Third Congressional District.

With the experience of being on active duty in the Navy during the Vietnam war and continuing to serve as an active Reservist until his retirement as a Navy Captain in November 1993, Martin was an effective member of the Armed Services Committee. During his tenure, he fought to obtain benefits increases for disabled veterans and sponsored Agent Orange compensation measures. He also took a special interest in procurement and other small business issues as a member of the Small Business Committee.

Our friendship stretches across decades, including our years in the House, which we began together in the Class of 1986. Martin's commitment and leadership in his law practice, the North Carolina General Assembly, the U.S. Congress, on many boards and commissions, and especially in our community colleges, have improved the quality of life for people of all ages. We have known each other long enough to watch our grandchildren's generation benefit from his talent and dedication.

It is with the greatest respect and my deepest appreciation that I rise today to honor Martin Lancaster and thank him for his many invaluable contributions to our State and Nation. On behalf of all who have also been fortunate to work with him, I wish him, his wife Alice, and their two daughters, Mary Martin and Ashley Elizabeth and their growing families, the best in all of their future endeavors.

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#### IN HONOR OF BRIAN PERRY

### HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2008*

Mr. PICKERING. Madam Speaker, today I would like to honor a member of my staff, Brian Perry, as he leaves to join Mississippians for Economic Progress as executive director. Brian has served as my communications director for the past 5 years and has done an outstanding job handling the press inquiries my office has received from the national, State, and local level. He has served in

a composed, calm, and patient manner; which is to be admired in a position so demanding.

Brian grew up in the Nashville, Tennessee area and then moved to Mississippi where he attended Northwest Rankin High School. Once in Mississippi, he settled there and graduated from Belhaven College in 1997 with a bachelor of arts in philosophy and then obtained a masters in communication from Mississippi College. Before starting in my office, Brian was a reporter for the Madison County Journal, creator and editor of the Magnolia Report, and campaign director for Judge Keith Starrett's successful run for election. His personal experience as a journalist helped make him a very effective communications director for me.

In addition to serving as my communications director, Brian also focused on education, human rights, and religious freedom issues. In 2006, Brian moved back to Mississippi to work in my district office in Pearl. We have missed having Brian in the DC office.

Since moving back to Mississippi, Brian has been extremely involved in neighborhood and community activities. He is a loyal alumnus of Belhaven, living just one block from the school. Canoeing, fishing, and camping are among his favorite outdoor activities. He also enjoys listening to bluegrass, grilling with friends, and attending the Neshoba County Fair. Over the past 2 years, the district office has come to really know Brian and will remember him as an ardent 1st amendment defender, Christian advocate, political junkie, and the world's fastest eater. But most significantly, he will be remembered as a dedicated and conscientious member of my staff, a good listener, and a loyal friend to his fellow co-workers.

As a tribute to Brian for his exemplary work, I would like to share some words from people he has worked closely with throughout his career.

"Brian Perry's five year tenure in Congressman Pickering's office is noteworthy, as his record of public service is marked by a strong commitment to excellence and professionalism. Personally, I am grateful for Brian's willingness to serve as the spokesman for my 2007 re-election campaign; his vision, maturity, and experience were nothing short of exceptional. I commend Brian for his outstanding career and look forward to his continued contributions to government and politics."—Governor Haley Barbour

"Brian Perry has served Congressman Pickering and the Third District with distinction. He is a man of unwavering conviction and his integrity is above reproach. That's why it is my distinct privilege to count Brian among my closest and most trusted friends, a relationship that has developed as I have worked with him professionally. He's always been willing and able to meet the request of our newspapers—and then some. He has always proven to be of the strongest character when dealing with members of the press."—James E. Prince III, president, Prince Newspapers

"Brian Perry has been one of my closest and most trusted friends for well over a decade. We both met as activists in the Mississippi Republican Party. He has served as a loyal member of Congressman Chip Pickering's staff where he facilitated and communicated the various initiatives Congressman Pickering spearheaded in the interest of Mississippi's Third Congressional District. While serving as Republican Chairman of the Third District, and now as MRP Executive Director, Brian has proven himself

over and over again to be a man of character whose integrity and professionalism are above reproach. Brian's mark of service to the Republican Party, Congressman Pickering, and Mississippi and even the nation will be long lasting."—Brad White, executive director, Mississippi Republican Party

"Brian Perry worked very hard ensuring that the needs of rural areas were addressed along with the many other demands placed on Congress. He took a personal interest in the progress of Noxubee County and assisted us whenever possible. Brian's attention to detail and pride in his work was evident whether at his desk in the Cannon Building or during a much-deserved weekend break to fish the Shenandoah River. Brian Perry's presence on the Hill will be greatly missed by many Mississippians."—Brian Wilson, executive director, Noxubee Economic and Community Development Alliance

"It has truly been a pleasure to get to know Brian Perry during his tenure with Chip. He and I have developed a special friendship. I appreciate his intellect and character. He is an excellent writer and conscientious in his work. His public service has made a difference to our nation, our great state, and to Chip and our family. I will always be grateful."—Judge Charles W. Pickering, Sr.

Madam Speaker, Brian has provided wise counsel, effective communication and a passion for service to Mississippi. He served with poise throughout the aftermath of Katrina and in congressional and confirmation battles. I treasure his faith, reason and friendship. He has my deep respect and appreciation for all the contributions he has made and the work he has done. I wish him the very best and know he has a bright future communicating and fighting for good causes.

#### CONGRATULATING ISRAEL ON ITS 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE

**HON. JOHN M. MCHUGH**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2008*

Mr. MCHUGH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and commend the State of Israel on the 60th anniversary of its independence. On May 14, 1948, Israel declared its independence. Within 11 minutes, the United States became the first nation to give de facto recognition to the State of Israel. America's friendship with Israel continues to this day. Having visited Israel several times, I know well that Israelis and Americans share the common values of peace, freedom and democracy.

The modern state of Israel is a safe haven for Jews from all corners of the world. Since its founding, Israel has been a home to Holocaust survivors and their descendants, as well as Jews fleeing oppression. While strides have been made to combat global anti-Semitism, I am disappointed that recent reports indicate a rise in anti-Semitism worldwide.

A strong and secure Israel is vital to America's national interest. Israelis know all too well the terror of indiscriminate homicide attacks by radical terrorists. The enemies of Israel have also targeted their attacks against Americans. The terrorist group Hamas is responsible for the deaths of at least 26 Americans, including teenagers and young children. In 1983 Hezbollah bombed the U.S. embassy in Bei-

rut. Hezbollah was also involved in the bombing of the United States Marine barracks, in an attack that claimed the lives of 241 American servicemen. These groups operate with support and funding from Iran, a country whose president has called for Israel to be "wiped off the map." Hamas continues to launch rockets into Israel, terrorizing innocent civilians living near the Gaza border. However, Israelis have shown tremendous courage in the face of these hostilities. Despite the constant threat of annihilation, Israelis have made the desert bloom. They have created a flourishing culture and society. Israel has also developed a thriving economy and is the world's leader in the development of many cutting edge industries. Israeli technology has even been used to help keep our troops safe in battle in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Madam Speaker, I join my colleagues in congratulating the State of Israel on its 60th anniversary, and express my sincere hope that the next 60 years come with peace and security for our close friend and ally.

#### CALLING ON CONGRESS TO REPEAL THE GOVERNMENT PENSION OFFSET AND WINDFALL ELIMINATION PROVISION

**HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 1, 2008*

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about an extremely important issue facing many retirees in Massachusetts. Throughout my career in the Congress, I have heard from thousands of my constituents who have been penalized by the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP).

Both of these laws currently require that a modified formula be used to calculate the amount of Social Security benefits a retired or disabled worker and/or the worker's family will receive if the worker also receives a pension from local, State or Federal employment not covered by Social Security. This has resulted in some unintended and unfair consequences.

Millions of public service workers in 15 States are allowed to opt out of the Social Security system and my home State of Massachusetts is one of them. Most of these workers are teachers, town and State employees, nurses, police officers and firefighters who are not required or allowed to pay into the Social Security program. Therefore, they do not collect Social Security benefits upon retirement.

However, the GPO and WEP also prevent public servants from receiving Social Security benefits that they earned through other, non-public service employment. Under these provisions, a widow or widower is denied a spousal benefit because their husband or wife was a public service employee. This is unfair and unacceptable.

Every year those who unselfishly give of themselves by serving others in their communities, find their retirement savings slashed by the GPO and WEP, simply because they left the private sector to serve the public. In Massachusetts alone, nearly 18,700 retirees are affected by the GPO, with more than a third of them being widows or widowers. As many as 32,000 individuals are affected by the WEP.