

play in delivering significant benefits to the American people. I believe that the NASA Authorization Act of 2008 that I am introducing today will go a long way towards positioning the agency for a productive future when the next Administration takes office, and I hope that Members will support it.

CONGRATULATING DISTINGUISHED
SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT
DALE ENGQUIST OF MICHIGAN
CITY, INDIANA

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Dale Engquist of Michigan City, Indiana for receiving the Distinguished Service Award for his dedicated work for the National Park Service.

Dale Engquist has been with the National Park Service for 19 years. He has proven his leadership skills through developing partnerships and cooperative programs and providing collaborative opportunities for a diverse and complex audience. During Mr. Engquist's extensive career with the National Park Service, he increased the lakeshore at the Indiana Dunes by 15 percent and developed an educational program that serves over 35,000 students each year at the Paul Douglas Center for Environmental Education. Mr. Engquist is also responsible for the partnership formed between local community governments, LaPorte County, and the State of Indiana that collaborated to build a new visitor center, which is set to increase contacts with visitors to the area by 500 percent.

Mr. Engquist's vision and passion led to the development of a network of community organizations, state agencies, and environmental organizations to combat invasive species, which have been a pervasive problem along the southern tip of Lake Michigan. His participation on the Executive Steering Committee of the Chicago Wilderness greatly increased the awareness of the region to the biologically diverse and sensitive nature of the Indiana Dunes. Mr. Engquist has also signed a sister park agreement with Kampinoski National Park of Poland, formally providing opportunities for each park to meet and exchange ideas and information about resource management and education.

Due to his extended commitment to both residents and visitors to Indiana's Second District, it is my pleasure to rise today to honor Dale Engquist for receiving the Distinguished Service Award for his long and accomplished career with the National Park Service.

NATIONAL TRAIN DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 13, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support of H. Res. 1176, Supporting the goals and ideals of National Train Day, as a Member who appreciates and rec-

ognizes the vital role of trains in our economy and as a passenger who commutes between New York and Washington, DC, on the Amtrak Acela. I find my commute by train a convenient, efficient and relaxing way to travel that enables me to read and work in comfort and arrive refreshed, usually on time, and downtown, closer to my destination. I praise the efforts of visionary leaders who over the years have advocated the preservation and modernization of passenger rail service.

Trains have played a vital and historic role in this country, transporting cargo and passengers since the early 19th century, when the first steam locomotive was built by engineer George Stephenson. Without the creation of the steam engine, the Industrial Revolution would not have occurred and our great country would not have been able to prosper as much as it has. In 1869, the first transcontinental railroad was completed. Known as the 'golden pike,' it connected both the east and west coast of the United States, linking our Nation and bridging the geographical divide like never before.

Although there are a greater number of modes of transportation—planes, cars, buses—than there were in the early 1800s, trains are still relied on to transport large amounts of freight and millions of people every day. They have reduced congestion in major cities, helping to reduce pollution connecting people in rural areas to urban centers.

The history of trains has come a long way, from burning coal and going only 130 km/h to high-speed trains that can go from 200 km/h to 350 km/h and are electrically driven by overhead cables. Trains are constantly changing and improving. Due to global warming and greenhouse effects, trains now run more fuel efficiently, emitting only 0.2 percent of the travel industry's total greenhouse gases.

I support National Train Day because the train industry has been an important part of America's story and its economic development, as well as a large part of Americans' day-to-day lives.

TRIBUTE TO HARVEY SCHECTER

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to my dear friends of more than 30 years, Hope and Harvey Schechter. They are being honored at the 7th Annual Hillel 818 Dinner Celebration for their generous support and outstanding contributions to Los Angeles Valley College and to our community.

I have had the pleasure of working with Hope and Harvey throughout the years on many important issues of concern to the San Fernando Valley, the State of California and our Nation. I value their counsel, respect their knowledge and appreciate the help they have given me in my career.

Harvey is a remarkable individual who has dedicated his life to protecting our civil rights and combating anti-Semitism and racial discrimination. From 1952, when he began his impressive career with the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), until 1993 when he retired as Western States Regional Director of the ADL Foundation, he has been at the forefront on

critical humanitarian issues of concern to the ADL, the Jewish community and the world at large. Harvey has been a mentor, confidant, friend, teacher and inspiration to others during his career. His speeches, writings, and incomparable wit have enriched all who have had the good fortune to know him.

Following Harvey's retirement from the ADL, he rediscovered the joy of learning at Los Angeles Valley College. He touched the lives of hundreds of students as he shared with them the knowledge he has gained in his 84 years.

Hope is an outstanding example of the American dream. Born in a small mining town in Arizona to Mexican-American parents who spoke no English, she overcame tremendous challenges to achieve great success. After dropping out of high school, she worked at menial jobs, including as an underpaid garment industry worker. Her personal experience with the injustices to unskilled workers led her to a career as a union organizer for the International Ladies Garment Workers Union. She helped improve the quality of life for hundreds of workers by her determination, positive attitude and resilience. Her career includes many significant contributions to our community, including Community Service Organizer, fighting for safe neighborhoods, establishing the first Head Start Operation in Los Angeles County, helping resolve racial issues as a member of the Board of Directors of the Council of Mexican American Affairs and many more. She became a Certified Court Reporter, established her own firm and was the first woman elected President of the General Court Reporters Association. During my brief period in law practice, Hope was my court reporter of choice.

Beyond her community contributions, Hope has been a valuable asset to the California Democratic Party, serving for many years on the California Democratic State Central Committee in a number of leadership positions and volunteering her time and efforts to numerous political campaigns. Hope's dedication and tireless efforts on behalf of our community are an inspiration to us all.

Hope and Harvey recently celebrated 53 years of a wonderful marriage. Although they have no children of their own, they have been "adopted" as parents by more than one hundred young people they have met on the campus and in the community.

I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in honoring two special people who's caring and contributions have benefited so many.

THE NEW RUSSIAN GOVERNMENT

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 15, 2008

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, on May 7th, Dmitri Medvedev was sworn in as the new Russian President. It remains to be seen if he will be more than just a puppet controlled by Prime Minister Putin, but if the President's victory speech is any indication, we should expect a "direct continuation" of Putin's iron-fisted policies.

As Russia desires to regain its stance as a major world power, rest assured Putin and Medvedev will stop at nothing to achieve this. As Americans, we should be wary of Putin's legacy of government corruption, diminished democracy, and antagonistic stance