

just so important to our military serving in harm's way.

Just recently, about 150 members of the AVCRAD—many of them military technicians—deployed just last week in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Yet, as these technicians deploy abroad side by side with their fellow guardsmen, they are not treated equally because of their full time employment as a military technician. At a time when we rely on military technicians more than ever to ensure that our Armed Forces are ready to serve, I strongly believe that we must do more to support, recruit and retain both our skilled military technicians and dedicated members of the National Guard. We must update outdated 30-year-old laws to ensure that they adequately reflect the challenges and needs of today's military technician.

The bill I am introducing today, the National Guard Technician Recruitment and Retention Act, would restore fairness for our National Guard technicians. The bill ensures that no military technician is denied the opportunity to receive an enlistment or reenlistment bonus for their service in the National Guard, that they are given the opportunity to participate in a student loan repayment program and are not required to repay bonuses they receive for their service in the National Guard if they accept a position as a military technician. And, the bill will repeal the overtime prohibition against overtime pay for National Guard technicians and instead provide for flexibility in overtime compensation by allowing military technicians to choose between compensatory time or overtime pay at one and a half times their basic rate of pay—whatever suits their individual situation and needs.

Madam Speaker, if a military technician can train, serve and deploy as a member of the National Guard, I do not think it is too much for them to ask to keep the benefits they deserve for their service in the National Guard. With all we ask of them today, I simply disagree with the notion that a member of the National Guard has to give up the benefits they are entitled to because they chose to serve their Nation as a military technician. Military technicians are the ones that keep the National Guard ready to serve—and it is time that we serve them.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.

#### TRIBUTE TO COURTNEY RAYLE

### HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 8, 2008*

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to offer my congratulations to Courtney Rayle, the winner of the Masters Division of the 67th Greater Washington Soap Box Derby held in our Nation's Capital on June 22.

I am very pleased that Miss Rayle, who is a resident of Mechanicsville, Maryland and my constituent, has now earned the right to compete in the 71st Annual All-American Soap Box Derby national championship on July 26 in Akron, Ohio. Courtney has worked tirelessly to earn such a noteworthy win; due to her hard work, the victory marks the seventh time someone from the Rayle family has won the Greater Washington Soap Box race. This year

will be the 19th time a member of the Rayle family will race in Akron. Courtney joins Jimmy Rayle Sr., Billy Rayle, Jimmy Rayle Jr., and Jeff Rayle in a long tradition of excellence in this sport. As Courtney now looks to compete for the national soap box title, I, along with the people of Maryland, wish her the best of luck.

The origin of soap box derby racing dates back to 1934 when a photographer for the Dayton Daily News in Ohio, Myron E. Scott, saw boys racing engineless cars down a hill, inspiring him to organize a race and award the winner with a "loving cup." The venue was later moved to Akron—the site of today's national derby championship—on account of the numerous hills. With the hard work of countless civic organizations, a permanent track site for the youth racing classic was created in Akron with the assistance of the Works Progress Administration (WPA).

The All-American Soap Box Derby is the second-oldest racing event in the Nation—second only to the Indianapolis 500. This event has been called the greatest amateur racing competition in the world, and it is an excellent opportunity for contestants from all around the country to learn building skills while gaining a real sense of accomplishment. Congratulations to all of this year's competitors, and congratulations once again to Miss Courtney Rayle.

#### HONORS THE SOCIETY OF ST. TROFIMENA AS THEY CELEBRATE THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

### HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 8, 2008*

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to rise today to join my neighborhood, Wooster Square in New Haven, Connecticut, and the Italian-American community in celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Society of St. Trofimena. Founded in a home on Wooster Street in December of 1908, 100 years later, the Society of St. Trofimena continues to play an integral role in the lives of many of the families of Wooster Square.

Immigrating to the United States in 2004, a group of Minoresi, families from the town of Minori, Italy, came to America in search of work and made New Haven their home. In an effort to provide mutual aid and comfort to each other they decided to form a fraternal group—the Society of St. Trofimena, Virgine & Martine. According to its original by-laws, its primary purpose was to unite all descendants of the town of Minori and to increase and spread the devotion of St. Trofimena. As a tribute, Antonio Esposito commissioned and donated to the society a statue of St. Trofimena that was made in Italy and shipped to New Haven. This statue has been used in all of the festivals honoring her and has been paraded through the streets of Wooster Square.

The society flourished for more than 50 years before membership began to wane, however, in 1980 a group of descendants, spearheaded by Frances D'Amato Crisci and her brother Anthony D'Amato met to reorganize. In the years since its inception, members of the Society of St. Trofimena assumed a critical responsibility—maintaining the Italian her-

itage that thousands of Greater New Haven residents share. Each year, the Society of St. Trofimena keeps our community spirit alive honoring St. Trofimena on her feast day of July 13 and at a mass in memory of her deceased members in November. It is through efforts such as these that we renew our history and help pass it along.

Forged through the bonds of family, the members of the Society of St. Trofimena continue to be active in the community—enriching our neighborhood and ensuring that our rich history is not forgotten by new generations. The original mission of the society is still apparent today as we gather to celebrate their centennial anniversary. It is with great pride that I stand today to extend my deepest thanks and warmest congratulations to the members of the Society of St. Trofimena on their 100th anniversary.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO ROBERT JAMES GARLOW

### HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 8, 2008*

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to rise today to honor Mr. Robert James Garlow by entering his name in the Congressional Record, the official record of the proceedings and debates of the United States Congress since 1873. Today, I honor Mr. Garlow for his extensive service to both our country and community.

Mr. Garlow joined the U.S. Air Force on October 19, 1966. He graduated Officer's Training School in 1967 and earned his Master's in Engineering Facilities in 1974. Mr. Garlow's service as an engineer in the Air Force took him and his wife Susan around the globe, with assignments in Texas, New Mexico, Japan, North Dakota, Ohio, Germany, Panama City, and Spain before his arrival at Nellis Air Force Base in Las Vegas, Nevada in July of 1983. Since that time, Robert and Susan have called Boulder City, Nevada home. During this time, Mr. Garlow received his Nevada registration as a Professional Civil Engineer.

In 1986, Robert retired from the Air Force as a Civil Engineer Officer with the rank of Major after 20 years of service. Since his retirement from the military, Robert has worked in the Las Vegas Valley as a Director of Facilities for numerous companies and most recently retired from the City of North Las Vegas where he worked as a Senior Project Manager.

Mr. Garlow is a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Military Order of the Cootie (MOC), Vietnam Veterans of America, and Scottish American Military Society (SAMS). He has served as Chairman of the Nevada Veterans Assistance League and the Veterans Cemetery Volunteer Group. Mr. Garlow volunteers a great deal of his time to these two organizations and has been an advocate and supporter to our veterans in Southern Nevada.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Mr. Robert James Garlow for his most recent retirement, his continued volunteerism in the community, and wish him the best in his future endeavors.