

exclusively provide emergency medical services.

Our current tax code prohibits the use of tax-exempt bonds for the purchase of airplanes. This exclusion was meant to prevent the use of tax-exempt bonds for frivolous purposes, including corporate jets. My legislation would continue the ban on using tax-exempt bonds for extravagant reasons and simply allow tax-exempt bond financing for airplanes that exclusively provide emergency medical services.

This issue is particularly important to my district because Inland Northwest Health Services (INHS), a non-profit organization based in Spokane, is looking to expand air ambulance service to rural areas by purchasing new planes. In 2007, INHS provided 2,891 emergency medical flights. INHS currently serves Central and Eastern Washington, as well as parts of Oregon, Idaho and Montana. In my district, INHS serves residents in Adams, Benton, Chelan, Douglas, Franklin, Grant, Kittitas and Klickitat counties.

The IRS currently allows tax-exempt bonds to be used to purchase helicopters for air ambulance services. Some may wonder why then do we need to amend the tax code for fixed wing aircraft. In rural areas, such as my district, the use of helicopters is often impractical because of the long distances that patients must be transported. Airplanes are commonly the best mode of transportation for critically ill patients because they can travel longer distances and provide the safest and fastest mode of travel during inclement weather.

While I have focused on why this legislation is important to the residents of my district, I want to be clear that my legislation does not only assist the non-profit INHS. Under this bill, any organization that would like to obtain tax-exempt bond financing for airplanes that are exclusively dedicated to providing acute emergency care would be eligible.

I urge my colleagues to support this simple change to our tax code and I hope that this bill will become law in the very near future.

HONORING THE STUDENTS OF UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI RECOGNIZED BY THE NASA'S 2008 UNIVERSITY STUDENT FUTURE AIRCRAFT COMPETITION

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor students from the University of Miami participating in NASA's 2008 University Student Future Aircraft Competition. These four students placed second out of sixty-one students from 14 universities around the world. This is a tremendous accomplishment not only for these four students, but also for the future of our Nation's air transportation systems. I know that I join with our entire community in honoring their success.

Each team was asked to create a future subsonic transport aircraft that could carry up to 50,000 pounds, operate on runways between 1,500 and 3,000 feet long, and cruise at speeds between 595 and 625 mph. The competition also stressed that the planes should

use alternative fuels and be quieter and more environmentally friendly than today's commercial fleet. The team from the University of Miami successfully created The 2058 Aircraft: Quiet Ultra-Efficient Integrated Aircraft, which placed them second over all. The Nation's air transportation system is under tremendous pressure to increase performance and capacity without causing additional damage to the environment and this competition is paramount to aiding the advancement of aircraft technology.

With all their hard work, skill and commitment to excellence, these young adults managed to earn a very notable title. These students truly deserve to be recognized for their accomplishment.

I also recognize that it was with the support of their parents, professors and friends that these students were able to compete and stand out in such a demanding competition. Several NASA experts judge the University Student Future Aircraft Competition and it is no easy task to earn their approval.

I would like to submit the names of the University of Miami students recognized by the NASA's 2008 University Student Future Aircraft Competition: Sebastian Aspe, Joseph Dussling, Nicholas Heinz, and Daniel Martinez.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating these wonderful students and the faculty at University of Miami for their success at NASA's 2008 University Student Future Aircraft Competition.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 506, on the Wittman Motion to Recommit with instructions, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

TRIBUTE TO THE 40TH BIRTHDAY OF THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in commemoration of the 40th birthday of the Special Olympics. Experts agree that this organization has had a more positive impact on the lives of people with intellectual disabilities than any other organization of its kind.

Illinois is divided into 17 Special Olympic areas. My area, area 12 consists of 8 counties and works with over 1000 athletes. At least 8 weeks prior to the competition, volunteer coaches work with individuals to prepare them to compete in one or more of the 12 sports offered by Special Olympics. Through the Special Olympics, athletes better their physical fitness, motor skills, and self-image, as well as gain confidence that will carry over into their daily lives.

The Special Olympics are not only beneficial to the athletes themselves, but benefit the families of the athletes as well. Families gain

a stronger appreciation and respect for their athlete's abilities. Volunteers within the organization also gain a great satisfaction from interactions with the athletes and seeing them succeed.

The Special Olympics can only be made possible through the generous donations of money and time through its supporters and volunteers. Fundraisers and donations make this remarkable program possible. For all those that make this program possible, I would like to thank you for your unwavering dedication and support. You have made an impact on the lives of all the athletes. For the athletes, congratulations on your amazing accomplishments, within the Special Olympics and all other aspects of your life. I wish every one of you nothing but the best in the future.

HONORING AND RECOGNIZING THE DEDICATION AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA DURING ITS NATIONAL BOULÉ CONFERENCE CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise to express my enthusiastic congratulations and support of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority during its national Boulé conference celebrating 100 years of the organization in Washington, DC. The sorority, founded at Howard University on January 15, 1908, is the first Greek-lettered sorority established and incorporated by a group of nine African-American college women. The AKA sorority broke barriers for African-American women in areas where little power or authority existed due to a lack of opportunities for minorities and women in the early twentieth century.

Headquartered in Chicago, Illinois, the sorority consists of college-educated women of African, Caucasian, Asian, and Hispanic descent. The sorority serves through a membership of more than 200,000 women in over 900 chapters in the United States and several other countries.

Since its inception, Alpha Kappa Alpha has helped to improve social and economic conditions through community service programs. Members have improved education through independent initiatives, contributed to community-building by creating programs and influenced Federal legislation by legislation advocacy through the National Non-Partisan Lobby on Civil and Democratic Rights.

My wife Vera, is a proud member of Tau Gamma Omega graduate chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority. Two of my sisters, Ceola and Floretta, are also AKA's. Tau Gamma Omega often meet in our home and I have always been very proud of the leadership and mentoring relationship my wife has established and continues to display with younger women who join. Tau Gamma Omega is a strong voice and positive presence in the community where they serve.

As a member of the fraternity Alpha Phi Alpha and the United States House of Representatives, I commend the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority on all their continuing endeavors to help the community, and I welcome the