

WOLF and myself in writing this legislation. Though Congressman CONNOLLY is new to this body, he is not new to telework. As Chairman of the Fairfax County, Virginia Board of Supervisors, Congressman CONNOLLY instituted a far-reaching telework policy—performing a great service to the employees of Fairfax County and offering a model solution for the federal government.

Finally, I would like to thank Congressman DANNY K. DAVIS for his support. Congressman DAVIS and I introduced a similar piece of legislation in the 110th Congress. As chairman of the Federal Workforce Subcommittee of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, the Congressman shepherded this crucial legislation through the House of Representatives, but unfortunately the measure stalled in the Senate. We are hopeful that we will get a bill to the President's desk during the 111th Congress.

Madam Speaker, the federal government should lead the way as a model employer and embrace innovative personnel policies that increase productivity while striking the right balance between family and work. By enacting the Telework Improvements Act, we have the opportunity to bolster the federal workforce, reduce traffic and carbon emissions, and improve the quality of life for our dedicated civil servants all in one fell swoop. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this pragmatic, commonsense legislation.

TRIBUTE TO FORMER NASA ADMINISTRATOR DR. MICHAEL D. GRIFFIN

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 2009

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the aerospace and aeronautics communities, and to our country, have been exceptional. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has been fortunate to have a dynamic and dedicated leader who has given his time and talent to advance U.S. interests in space, science and aeronautics. On January 20, 2009, Administrator Michael Griffin concluded nearly four years of service as the NASA Administrator.

Dr. Griffin was nominated by President George W. Bush and confirmed by the United States Senate as the 11th Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. He began his term on April 14, 2005. As Administrator, Mike led the NASA team and managed its resources to advance the U.S. Vision for Space Exploration which included returning the space shuttle to flight, completing assembly of the International Space Station and development of the Ares rocket and Orion crew vehicle to return us to the moon and eventually to Mars.

Prior to his tenure with NASA, Griffin served as Space Department Head at Johns Hopkins University's Applied Physics Laboratory in Laurel, Maryland. He was previously President and Chief Operating Officer of In-Q-Tel, Inc., and also served in several positions within Orbital Sciences Corporation, Dulles, Virginia, including Chief Executive Officer of Orbital's Ma-

gellan Systems division and General Manager of the Space Systems Group. Griffin also previously served as chief engineer and as associate administrator for exploration at NASA, and as deputy for technology at the Strategic Defense Initiative Organization.

Mike Griffin is a true rocket scientist and has the post-secondary degrees to prove it. He received a bachelor's degree in physics from Johns Hopkins University; a master's degree in aerospace science from Catholic University of America; a Ph.D. in aerospace engineering from the University of Maryland; a master's degree in electrical engineering from the University of Southern California; a master's degree in applied physics from Johns Hopkins University; a master's degree in business administration from Loyola College; and a master's degree in Civil Engineering from George Washington University.

Mike Griffin is a certified flight instructor with instrument and multiengine ratings. In addition, he is a member of the National Academy of Engineering and International Academy of Astronautics, an Honorary Fellow of the American Astronautical Society, a Senior Member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, and a previous adjunct professor at the University of Maryland, Johns Hopkins University, and George Washington University, where he taught courses in spacecraft design, applied mathematics, guidance and navigation, compressible flow, computational fluid dynamics, spacecraft attitude control, astrodynamics and introductory aerospace engineering. He is the lead author of more than two dozen technical papers, as well as the textbook, "Space Vehicle Design." Mike is also the recipient of the Department of Defense's Distinguished Public Service Medal, the highest award given to a non-government employee.

Mike has demonstrated his ongoing passion for NASA and provided tremendous leadership for the agency in the Second Space Age. I am proud to call Mike a fellow American and friend. I know that many people around the country are grateful for his service and join me in saluting his many achievements. Whatever the future holds for him, Godspeed Mike Griffin.

CONGRATULATIONS LEXINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 2009

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, during this year's Southeastern Theatre Conference (SETC) convention, which took place March 4th to 8th in Birmingham, Alabama, South Carolina's own Lexington High School earned runner-up honors for their production of "Scooter Thomas Makes It To The Top Of The World" in the High School Theatre Festival. Three Lexington High School students won recognition for their roles in the production: William Vaughan won the Best Actor Award; Luke Whitmire won the Best Supporting Actor Award; and, Danielle Peterson won the Best Assistant Director Award.

In November 2008, Lexington High School took top honors at the South Carolina Theatre Association's festival which earned them a

spot in the Southeastern Theatre Conference. The play, "Scooter Thomas Makes It To The Top Of The World," written by Peter Parnell, tells the story of Dennis who travels to the funeral of his childhood friend Scooter Thomas and reflects on their relationship and the decisions they made growing up.

I wish to commend all the students involved in this production—including Lachlan Medley, stage manager; Johnny Hawley, sound and light technician; Justin Hall, master set builder; Shelly Skelly, light technician; stage hands Elliott Carter and Bradley Cockrell—as well as their director and drama teacher, Leslie Dellinger. Congratulations to Lexington High School, under the professional leadership of Principal B. Creig Tyler, for their continued dedication and support of the arts and to the success of our students and community.

HOUSING CRISIS IN THE CENTRAL VALLEY

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 2009

Mr. CARDOZA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remind my colleagues that the housing crisis continues to devastate communities across the country.

By all measures my district has been among the hardest hit by the foreclosure epidemic and the recession.

Constituents in Merced, California, near my hometown of Atwater, are suffering from 19.9% unemployment, the highest rate of foreclosures in the nation, and a loss of 70% of their home equity over the last three years.

They are experiencing an economic tsunami that will leave the Central Valley struggling for many years to come.

I am working on an effort to devise an Economic Disaster Area designation.

So places like my district, whose communities have been disproportionately affected by the country's recession, can receive the additional federal funding they need to keep from falling off the map.

The future of my constituents and my district is in jeopardy.

That is why I am asking my colleagues to support me in my efforts to create this Economic Disaster Area designation and to help my constituents and the entire Central Valley recover from this economic downturn.

MORRIS TOMORROW CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 25, 2009

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in commemoration of the Twenty Fifth Anniversary of Morris Tomorrow of Morris County, New Jersey, a vibrant organization that I am proud to represent.

Morris Tomorrow's primary mission includes focusing attention on issues of regional significance, promoting public discussion, facilitating consensus towards viable solutions, and serving as a catalyst for implementation. Founded