

don't work directly on transportation issues in this Committee, we do have the opportunity to deal with how our nation's infrastructure is funded.

The Highway Trust Fund was established in 1956 to provide a dedicated source of federal support for highways and transit programs across the country. Unfortunately, the Highway Trust Fund's balance continues to diminish every year. First and foremost, the Highway Trust Fund is financed primarily through fuel taxes. Combined with high gas prices last year and greener living, people are driving less. This means there is less money going into the Trust Fund. Second, the projects funded out of the Trust Fund are more costly. Consequently fewer initiatives can be funded from the Trust Fund.

As you can see, Madam Speaker, since National Transportation Week was first created, our Nation's transportation and infrastructure has become much more complex—as has our economy. Jobs are created where there is good connectivity—roads, trains, bridges, public transit, walkable, bikable streets and communities. Before we tackle these larger issues, we can start with the basics. I urge all of my colleagues to support this very simple legislation.

NATE BURIANAK

### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 13, 2009*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Nate Burianak who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Nate Burianak is an 8th grader at Oberon Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Nate Burianak is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Nate Burianak for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication he has shown in his academic career to his future accomplishments.

CONGRATULATING CATERPILLAR,  
INC.

### HON. BILL FOSTER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 13, 2009*

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, I am submitting this statement to express congratulations to Caterpillar, Inc. for their receiving EPA's Clean Air Excellence Award.

Caterpillar was honored for developing its D7E, a revolutionary new bulldozer that consumes up to 30 percent less fuel and performs necessary construction operations 25 percent more efficiently. These impressive increases in

efficiency will allow construction workers, miners and other earthmoving workers to do their jobs while emitting significantly fewer carbon dioxide emissions.

After more than two years of research, the D7E represents exactly the kinds of new technology we need to move our country and our economy into the 21st Century. Its electric drive is a platform from which Caterpillar can begin exploring the possible use of alternative fuels to power American construction.

Production of these innovative tractors is set to begin later this year in my home state of Illinois. As a former small businessman myself, and one who worked to keep manufacturing jobs in the Midwest, I would like to further congratulate Caterpillar for its commitment to reinvest in the communities that have supported them for nearly 100 years.

It is my honor to represent the employees of Caterpillar's Aurora, Montgomery and Dixon manufacturing facilities, and I thank them for all their hard work.

ROSALINDA BUSTILLOS

### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 13, 2009*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Rosalinda Bustillos who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Rosalinda Bustillos is a senior at Jefferson High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Rosalinda Bustillos is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Rosalinda Bustillos for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

A TRIBUTE TO MS. CHRISTA  
ALTMAN

### HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 13, 2009*

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Christa Altman for her service to the students at St. Aloysius Gonzaga Academy in Shepherdsville, Kentucky. She was recognized with the Catholic Education Foundation's Teacher Award.

Ms. Altman is devoted to making sure the students that pass through her classroom receive the best education possible. Her first-grade class consistently performs near the top on the school's annual test that measures student achievement.

Ms. Altman's positive influence on her students is also evident outside of the classroom.

She regularly volunteers for school activities and important causes, such as raising funds for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. By showing this spirit of volunteerism, Ms. Altman is inspiring future generations to make a difference in their communities.

Ms. Altman's passion for making a difference in the lives of her students is an example for all Kentuckians to follow. I thank Ms. Altman for her commitment to the students in Shepherdsville.

IN HONOR OF THE RETIREMENT  
OF COLONEL JAMES GEURTS

### HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 13, 2009*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Colonel James Geurts, United States Air Force, on the occasion of his retirement after twenty-two years of dedicated service to this Nation.

A distinguished graduate of the Lehigh University and the Air Force's Institute of Technology, Colonel Geurts was commissioned as an officer in the Air Force in 1987. He has served as a career acquisition program manager with engineering and program management experience in numerous weapon systems including Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles, surveillance platforms, tactical fighter aircraft, stealth cruise missiles, and special operations manned and unmanned aircraft.

As the Program Executive Officer for Fixed Wing at United States Special Operations Command, Colonel Geurts spearheaded the largest recapitalization and growth of Special Operations Forces Air Component fleet in its 22 year history. More than anyone else, Colonel Geurts helped shape the future of Special Operations aviation.

Colonel Geurts was instrumental in planning and executing numerous urgent deployment acquisition programs in support of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. He fielded multiple aircraft, which led the Secretary of Defense to proclaim his efforts as "the single greatest expansion of Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance capability flowing to the United States troops."

Colonel Geurts' distinguished career is marked by numerous awards and decorations that include the 2008 Packard Award, the Global War on Terrorism Advanced Concept Technology Demonstration Transition Team of the Year, and the William Perry Award. In addition, he has been awarded the Legion of Merit, Defense Meritorious Service Medal (1 oak leaf cluster), Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal (1 oak leaf cluster), and the Air Force Achievement Medal (1 oak leaf cluster).

On behalf of Congress and the United States of America, I express our appreciation of Colonel Geurts for his tireless service and support of the warfighter. His professionalism, expertise, and efforts showcase his patriotism, and his dedication to the Special Operators in the field: Colonel James Geurts is truly a great American.

I congratulate Colonel Geurts on completing an exceptional military career and am humbled by his dedicated service to our Nation. I