

Craftworkers, Mr. Duncan has been a valuable citizen of New Jersey. Mr. Duncan was born and raised in New Jersey, and now maintains a home and joyful family life in the Garden State. He and his wife Penny have been married for 26 years and they live in Fair Haven where they have raised three beautiful daughters.

Madam Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in celebrating the accomplishments and hard work of Kevin Duncan. Organized labor in New Jersey would not be the same without his determination and excellent service.

MAGGIE HURSEY

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

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

The dedication demonstrated by Maggie Hursey 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 Maggie Hursey 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.

FAA REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF
2009

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 915) to amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the Federal Aviation Administration for fiscal years 2009 through 2012, to improve aviation safety and capacity, to provide stable funding for the national aviation system, and for other purposes:

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Chair. We have one of the most efficient aviation systems in the world.

However, we still need a great deal of improvement to this system.

We need to modernize our air traffic control facilities to help make travel even more efficient and reduce unnecessary delays which cost our economy millions of dollars every year.

Our last FAA reauthorization bill expired in 2007. Since that time we have been operating on temporary extensions.

I am glad to see that the legislation before us today will continue these vital programs that are needed in our aviation system.

I believe that there is more good than bad in this bill, but I do have some concerns with some of the labor provisions contained in it.

In the 1996 FAA reauthorization bill, we made a technical correction that allowed Federal Express to operate under the Rail Labor Act, as it always has.

I think to change this provision now, without knowing the consequences in this economic climate, could end up hurting our economy.

I hope that we can revisit this matter in the future before this bill is in its final form.

I would also like to state that I am pleased that this bill includes provisions from legislation that I cosponsored which would restrict the use of cell phones on flights.

I believe every passenger should be able to enjoy a flight without having to listen to someone else's conversation.

Most people do not realize that they speak louder on a cell phone than they do during a normal conversation.

Cell phone conversations are often very loud, insensitive to other passengers, and disruptive to others in nearby seats.

This bill is far from a perfect one. In fact, there are other concerns that I have about some of the other sections, including the inspections of foreign repair stations.

This could cause the European Union to retaliate against repair stations located here and potentially cost us some good paying jobs.

However, I feel overall that we should move this legislation forward, and I hope we can address these other concerns as the process goes forward.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote on rollcall Nos. 288 through 291. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on Nos. 288, 289 and 291, and "no" on No. 290.

HONORING TEMPLE PARKS AND
RECREATION

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, I would like to commend Temple Parks and Recreation for their recent honor of being named one of the top four departments in the country for a city of its size. When the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration honors one city with its National Gold Medal Award for Excellence, I am proud to say that one of our own cities, in Texas District 31, will be among the elite finalists.

Congratulations to the residents, boards, committees, city council, city administration, and department staff, whose commitment to excellence over the past several years did not go unnoticed. I wish you all the best when the winner is named in October.

HONORING THE CAREER AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF REAR ADMIRAL JOEL R. WHITEHEAD, UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. COBLE. Madam Speaker, I take this occasion to honor Rear Admiral Joel Whitehead of the United States Coast Guard for his service to the United States Congress and for his 38 years of service to our country.

Admiral Whitehead presently serves as the Commander of the Eighth Coast Guard District in New Orleans where he is responsible for Coast Guard operations in 26 states, over 1,200 miles of Gulf of Mexico coastline and 10,300 miles of inland waterways including the entire lengths of the Mississippi, Ohio, Missouri, Illinois, and Tennessee River systems. As commander of the largest Coast Guard District, Admiral Whitehead leads over 9,000 active duty, reservists, civilian members and Coast Guard Auxiliary volunteers. From 2003 to 2005, then Captain Whitehead served as Chief of Congressional Affairs and as Acting Assistant Commandant for Governmental and Public Affairs. I am proud to have had the opportunity to work closely with him during this time. My staff and I have often relied on Admiral Whitehead's knowledge and understanding of the missions, challenges and responsibilities of the United States Coast Guard to help me in my leadership roles on the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee and in numerous other venues where his great depth of experience was invaluable.

Admiral Whitehead comes from a distinguished military family that has served this nation since before the American Revolution. His oldest known ancestor, Isaac Whitehead, served in the militia of the New Haven Colony in Connecticut as early as 1643. The Whitehead family moved westward in 1666 to become founders of the Elizabethtown, New Jersey Colony and again to Morristown, New Jersey where Onesimus Whitehead was a member of the New Jersey militia when George Washington encamped in Morristown the winter of 1779-80 and endured a winter as severe as that at Valley Forge where thousands died. His family having been awarded land for their service in the Revolutionary War, Isaac Whitehead IV moved to the Finger Lakes of New York about 1700 where the Whitehead family remained until they again traveled westward in 1826 after the opening of the Erie Canal. The Whitehead family remained in Ohio until the outbreak of World War II when Admiral Whitehead's father James entered the Army and served over 20 years, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel. In 1968 Admiral Whitehead's brother Scott also answered the call to serve his Nation, joining the United States Marine Corps while in college and recently retiring as a Colonel in the Marine Corps Reserve.

Admiral Whitehead has served at sea and ashore in a variety of operational and policy tours during his career. A native of Newport News, Virginia, he graduated from Walsingham Academy in Williamsburg, Virginia. He began his military career at the United States Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut in 1971, where he was

ected Class President and served as a Regimental Commander in the year of his graduation in 1975. Ensign Whitehead first trained new Cadets of the Class of 1979 as a Summer Ensign at the Coast Guard Academy. He then went to Governor's Island, New York, to serving two years aboard the cutter MORGENTHAU as Anti-Submarine Officer, Weapons Officer and Deck Watch Officer. He later served as Executive Officer of Marine Safety Office, Albany, New York. There, for the first, but not last time in his career, he led the Coast Guard's response to an environmental crisis when he was second in command during the first "Superfund" cleanup in the nation's history.

After earning a Master's Degree in Public Administration at the State University of New York at Albany, Lieutenant Commander Whitehead and his family accepted their first tour in Washington, D.C., where they spent some 12 years during his career. There, he helped negotiate the worldwide implementation of international MARPOL Treaty at the International Maritime Organization in London and subsequently wrote the U.S. federal regulations to enforce them in the United States. When the EXXON VALDEZ disaster occurred in 1989, Lieutenant Commander Whitehead was assigned for two weeks to assist the Admiral in charge of the cleanup. He ultimately stayed for almost a year as an adviser to the Federal On-Scene Coordinator and later wrote the federal report detailing the government's response and recommendations that came from the lessons learned from this historic event. Following the EXXON VALDEZ response in Alaska, Lieutenant Commander Whitehead returned to Washington, D.C., to assist in implementing the newly passed Oil Pollution Act of 1990 and later served as a Program Reviewer for the Coast Guard's budget where he was responsible for program oversight and development for almost one-third of the Coast Guard's operating budget. He also led the Coast Guard's efforts with the new presidential administration's transition team in 1992.

Again in the field from 1993 to 1996, Commander Whitehead was assigned as Deputy Group Commander of Group Woods Hole, Massachusetts, where his group responded to more than 4,000 law enforcement boardings and 5,400 search and rescue cases resulting in over 450 lives saved. In 1996, Commander Whitehead was selected to study for a year with 17 select military officers as a National Security Fellow at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. From that elite educational experience he again found himself in Washington working for the Commandant of the Coast Guard as the Chief of Strategic Planning for the U.S. Coast Guard. There his team developed the Coast Guard's strategic vision, Coast Guard 2020 and pioneered a scenario-based planning process to develop long-range strategies to plot the Coast Guard's future.

It was not long afterward that Captain Whitehead was in command in Boston as Commanding Officer of Marine Safety Office Boston. There he managed the explosive growth of Liquefied Natural Gas transits through the port, Sail Boston 2000 and led the federal response to the largest oil spill in Boston's history: the 2000 Tank Vessel POSAVINA spill, which put over 59,000 gallons of fuel oil in the harbor. Under his leadership the Coast Guard collected an unprece-

ded 89% of the oil from that near-pristine waterway that had just undergone a \$4 billion, 10-year water quality improvement project.

In 2001, Captain Whitehead was transferred early to begin his close association with the Gulf of Mexico when he was selected as Chief of Staff of the Eighth Coast Guard District. There he managed the day-to-day operations of a 200 person staff and 9,000 Coast Guard men and women located at sub-units throughout the heartland of America and the Gulf of Mexico. He was there only a few months when the attacks of 9/11 occurred and, as acting District Commander, he personally led the federal maritime homeland security response on the inland waterways, Gulf of Mexico ports and offshore oil and gas fields. Recalling over 800 Reservists to protect the Nation's busiest ports and the energy gateway to America, he reorganized the District staff to include the first Homeland Security staff element in the Coast Guard.

Returning to Washington in 2003, Captain Whitehead assumed the reigns of the Coast Guard's relations with Capitol Hill as the Chief of Congressional Affairs. There he managed some 25 young Coast Guard men and women at DOT Headquarters, in the House of Representatives and the Senate, and organized over 100 Congressional and staff delegation visits to the field. It was there I met Captain Whitehead as he worked the many policy and budget issues including the growing Deep-water acquisition project, homeland security and port security issues.

While Chief of Congressional Affairs, he was promoted to Rear Admiral in 2004 and officially became the Assistant Commandant for Governmental and Public Affairs. As the heart-rending events of Hurricanes KATRINA and RITA unfolded in 2005, Admiral Whitehead ably represented the Coast Guard in Washington as a national spokesman alongside the Secretary of Homeland Security and provided numerous briefings to Members of Congress and Congressional committee staffs. In addition, he orchestrated an extraordinary and expansive media effort documenting the Coast Guard's historic response to that natural tragedy.

In 2006, Admiral Whitehead volunteered to return to New Orleans, this time to lead the Eighth Coast Guard District. Faced with the rebuilding of many Coast Guard facilities destroyed or damaged during the hurricanes, he prepared the staff for more hurricanes and tropical storms, as well as the ubiquitous flooding from the inland river system. During his tenure, the Coast Guard responded flawlessly to over 8,100 search and rescue cases. Then in 2008, during the fifth most active weather year since 1944, Admiral Whitehead led his Eighth District team through Tropical Storms EDOUARD, FAY and HANNAH, as well as Hurricanes DOLLY, GUSTAV and IKE in which 220 people were saved. In the largest oil spill in many years in New Orleans when the motor vessel TINTOMARA and the tug MEL OLIVER collided on the Mississippi river, Sector New Orleans and the Eighth District responded immediately and effectively, partially opening the port to traffic within days and fully opening it within two weeks to prevent a multi-billion dollar economic loss. The Midwest floods of Iowa and Missouri in 2008 also set records, only to be surpassed in 2009 by the flooding of the Red River of the North in which the Coast Guard rescued by helicopter and small boats over 105 people.

Admiral Whitehead has earned numerous military decorations during his years of active duty, including the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Coast Guard Commendation medal, the 9/11 medal, as well as numerous unit commendations and team awards. He has also received a number of other honors, including being named the Distinguished Alumnus in Public Administration & Policy for 2007 at the State University of New York at Albany. He is also an Honorary Master Chief Petty Officer of the Coast Guard, a recognition which the Admiral is most proud of. Over the years, Admiral Whitehead has also been able to serve his alma maters as a Director of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy Alumni Association and from 1999–2003 as a member and Chairman of the Alumni Executive Council at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, which represents more than 20,000 alumni in 120 nations.

This week, Admiral Whitehead will leave his post in New Orleans and retire after 38 years of honorable service to the Coast Guard and the Nation. He will be missed as a military congressional affairs alumnus in the United States House of Representatives and Senate. It has been my pleasure to work with Admiral Whitehead over the years. On behalf of all who have also been able to work with him, we wish Admiral Whitehead, his wife Martha, whom I have had the pleasure of knowing for many years, and his two wonderful daughters Christine, a medical student at the Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine in Blacksburg, Virginia and Katherine, a fine art photography major who will graduate this year from the Corcoran College of Art and Design here in Washington, the best in their future endeavors.

HONORING RIVERDALE HIGH SCHOOL LADY WARRIORS ON WINNING THE 2009 TSSAA CLASS AAA GIRLS' STATE SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 2009 Riverdale High School Lady Warriors for winning their first TSSAA Class AAA State Softball Championship.

In a best of three series, the Lady Warriors fought back after a game-one loss and beat Beech High School's Lady Buccaneers two games in a row to secure the tournament championship. They showed tenacity and perseverance to emerge as victors, and finished the season with an overall record of 47–7.

I know the parents of these young ladies must be very proud, and much credit is due to them for their many hours of support, attending practices and games, helping with fundraisers and volunteering when needed.

I commend Riverdale High School Head Coach Jeff Breeden and Assistant Coaches Dennis Weaver and Falon Catalano, Athletic Director Barry Messer, and Principal Tom Nolan.

I congratulate each player of the 2009 AAA State Champion Lady Warrior Softball Team: