

in the aviation fuel excise taxes be placed on the fractional aviation community. It is important to note that both of these recommendations are fully supported by the fractional aviation community and are consistent with the agreement reached on this issue last year by the Senate Finance and Commerce Committees.

We had originally hoped to raise this issue during the Committee's mark-up on the aviation tax provisions of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2009. In the absence of this opportunity, we ask for your commitment to continue to work with us on this issue as this legislation moves forward.

Sincerely,

PATRICK J. TIBERI,
JOHN B. LARSON.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
Washington, DC, May 21, 2009.

Hon. JOHN B. LARSON,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN LARSON: Thank you for writing me to express your interest in the tax treatment of fractionally-owned aircraft operations. My office has been contacted on this issue as well. In the last Congress, Ms. Tubbs Jones supported changing the tax treatment of these operations from commercial to non-commercial aviation before she passed away and I appreciate your efforts to take up this issue in her place. Last year, the Senate Finance and Commerce Committees reached an agreement on this matter when the Senate considered the FAA reauthorization bill. The Senate never completed action on that bill so we were unable to consider it in conference before the end of the Congress.

This year, we had a very brief window between the Committee's hearing on aviation taxes and floor action. To accommodate that schedule, we chose to bring the bill to the floor without a mark-up of the revenue title. In those circumstances, I felt that it was not fair to Committee members for the title to include new material and thus, after consulting with our Ways and Means colleagues, we opted to move a revenue title whose substance is identical to that passed by the House in the last Congress.

I want to thank you for cooperating in that effort. Unfortunately, that process made it impossible for us to give the tax treatment of fractionally-owned aircraft the attention and consideration it deserves. Accordingly, I would like to indicate that our failure to address the matter in the FAA bill is not the last word on the matter. If the Senate acts on the bill, we will have a conference committee. And there is a strong possibility that the Senate may include provisions related to fractional operations in its bill. At this point, I am not aware of any opposition to the proposal but believe we need to take a closer look to verify that there are no objections to or problems with changing the tax treatment of fractionally-owned aircraft operations. I have asked my staff to take a closer look at the issue and promise to keep working with you as this legislation moves forward.

Sincerely,

CHARLES B. RANGEL,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
Washington, DC, May 21, 2009.

Hon. PATRICK J. TIBERI,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

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Sincerely,

CHARLES B. RANGEL,
Chairman.

RECOGNIZING THE ONE-HUNDRED
AND SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE GUM SPRINGS
COMMUNITY

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the One-hundred and seventy-fifth anniversary of the Gum Springs Community in Alexandria, Virginia. The Gum Springs Historical Society celebrated the anniversary on May 16, 2009.

Gum Springs is an African-American community founded in 1833 by West Ford, a freed slave. West previously was owned by John Augustine Washington and frequently accompanied John's brother, General George Washington following the Revolutionary War. As a freed man, West inherited 160 acres from the Washington family adjacent to Mount Vernon which he later sold to acquire a nearby tract of 214 acres that became the basis of the Gum Springs Community.

West Ford's Gum Springs Community became a refuge for freed and runaway slaves before the Civil War, and the residents built homes, became farmers and loggers and worked in other various trades. They took a

patch of land, empty except for a solitary gum tree, and built a place of belonging for many Americans who, sadly, were marginalized and discriminated against in general society. Despite the hardships they were forced to endure, the residents persevered and prospered and the Gum Springs Community is a vibrant home to 2,500 people today.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the Gum Springs Community on its One-hundred and seventy-fifth anniversary, and thank the Gum Springs Historical Society for preserving the heritage and courage of those first residents who overcame tremendous challenges and successfully raised their families and created a lasting community.

TRIBUTE TO VINCENT J.
TORNELLO

HON. THOMAS S.P. PERRIELLO

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 2, 2009

Mr. PERRIELLO. Madam Speaker, today I recognize Vincent J. Tornello upon his completion of 37 years of service to Virginia's Fifth District. As conductor of the Charlottesville High School musical ensemble since 1972, he has imparted to thousands of young students the lasting gift of a musical education, and it is an honor to acknowledge his contribution to the community.

Vincent Tornello was born and raised in Oceanside, New York. He began conducting at age 17, and went on to earn his undergraduate degree at the Shenandoah Conservatory of Music, where he studied alto saxophone, flute, and piano; and his master's degree at the University of Virginia. During his time at Charlottesville High School, Mr. Tornello was the recipient of numerous accolades and honors from the community and beyond, including Sousa Foundation's Legion of Honor Award and membership in the Virginia Band Hall of Fame. Under his tutelage, Charlottesville High School bands have been named a Virginia Honor Band 27 out of 28 possible years, received superior ratings for 28 consecutive years at the state marching band festival, and performed at the 1998 Cotton Bowl Parade and the 1993 Fiesta Bowl Parade.

Throughout his career, Mr. Tornello has challenged each student to grow not only in musical skill, but also in discipline and an appreciation for the process of making music. Described as "tough, but inspiring" by his students, he has encouraged young people of varying backgrounds, abilities, and unique talents to take pride in the dedication and teamwork required to meet high standards of achievement. In helping each student reach his or her potential, he has created accomplished ensembles of young musicians dedicated to ensuring the school music program's continued success.

Although Mr. Tornello's legacy partly continues, his students have been inspired to enter the field of music and performing arts as a career, his students who have chosen a different path have noted the lasting impact of the life lessons learned under his guidance. Mr. Tornello has taught thousands of young people to strive for personal excellence and