

in the village to construct St. Mary's of the Lake Seminary. The village changed its name again in 1924 in recognition of Cardinal Mundelein's success with the new seminary. Today, Mundelein has grown to a residential community of over 30,000 residents.

Madam Speaker, the village of Mundelein is unique in its history and adds to the vibrant community of the Eighth District of Illinois. I thank all the past leaders of village of Mundelein for their dedication to public service; their community would not have reached this milestone without their hard work and commitment. I congratulate Mundelein for reaching their 100th anniversary and I wish them continued success in the future.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 15, 2009*

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I participated in an official trip to the Middle East to visit troops and commanders on the ground. As a result, I missed two votes on Monday, December 14, 2009. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 969 and 970.

#### HONORING THE CAREER OF DEBORAH K. CRAWFORD

### HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 15, 2009*

Mr. CRENSHAW. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Deborah K. Crawford of Jacksonville, Florida who has dedicated over 35 years of her professional career towards the protection of individual rights and reducing the administrative burden on taxpayers.

Deborah Crawford began her career as a Collection Representative for the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) working in Jacksonville, FL representing many low-income individuals who needed help accessing benefits that they may have been entitled to under the law.

Deborah later moved onto the Problem Resolution Program (PRP), as a collection technician. Her positive attitude and willingness to go the extra mile was extremely beneficial to the citizens of North Florida which earned her the selection as the Congressional Liaison in the PRP.

When the PRP was displaced by the Taxpayer Advocate Service (TAS) Deborah continued on in her role as the Congressional Liaison. TAS is an independent organization within the IRS whose employees assist taxpayers who are experiencing economic hardships, who are seeking help in resolving problems with the IRS, or who believe that an IRS system or procedure is not working as it should.

Deborah also works with the Low Income Taxpayer Clinics to assure that the clinics operate within the guidelines and to provide representation to low income taxpayers with tax matters before the Internal Revenue Service.

Deborah continues her service to North Florida during her personal time with activities

that include volunteer work with the animal shelter, zoo, and church. I commend and congratulate the impressive career history of Deborah K. Crawford and her devoted service to the taxpayers of North Florida.

#### WALL STREET REFORM AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

### HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 9, 2009*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4173) to provide for financial regulatory reform, to protect consumers and investors, to enhance Federal understanding of insurance issues, to regulate the over-the-counter derivatives markets, and for other purposes:

Mr. KIND. Madam Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 4173, the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2009.

Over the past year, we became aware of many financial practices which were abusive and reckless. We're putting an end to those practices and making "too big to fail" a thing of the past. Americans will no longer be responsible for the bad business calculations and irresponsible behavior that almost brought down our entire economic system. This bill effectively ends the notion of a government guarantee by allowing large, systemically risky institutions to fail at their own expense and in a way that doesn't jeopardize the whole U.S. financial system.

The legislation holds Wall Street accountable through increased transparency and regulation of risky practices. A new systemic risk regulator will monitor financial activity across the whole sector to identify risks and irresponsible behavior and prevent them from becoming a problem for individual investors and the entire economy. The bill also establishes an orderly process for dismantling large, failing companies—at their own expense, and requires that stockholders and executives take a financial hit if risky deals fall through, ensuring an end to taxpayer funded bailouts.

This bill effectively reforms our financial system without unduly restricting appropriate risk-taking. This is pro-business, anti-bailout legislation that aims to address the flaws in the current system in a targeted manner to minimize the burden on those who did not cause the crisis, like Community Banks and Credit Unions—most of whom will be exempt from additional oversight by the Consumer Financial Protection Agency, CFPA.

We are addressing the fractured oversight that exists in our current system. In creating a Consumer Financial Protection Agency, we will establish a baseline for consumer financial protection and target the appropriate financial institutions. If we are willing to demand that products used by our children are reviewed for safety, we should demand appropriate oversight for the financial products we use to pay for their college. More broadly, the CFPA will ensure that all consumers have a watchdog to protect them against financial institutions engaging in abusive or deceptive practices.

This bill focuses on reforming the system so that we maximize the good and minimize the harm, and I am proud to support it.

JASON HODGE

### HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 15, 2009*

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the exceptional life of Mr. Jason Hodge. A devoted son, brother, nephew, cousin, friend and colleague, Jason Hodge was taken from us too soon, on December 6, 2009. Today, let us find comfort in the joy he inspired and his wonderful spirit. He was a bright, confident, ambitious and kind man, who will be deeply missed.

After graduating from Skyline High School in 1992, Jason Hodge was accepted to the University of California, Berkeley. He soon learned how to overcome obstacles, however, when the local college funding program meant to help pay for his UC Berkeley tuition ran out of money. Although this was a terrible shock to Jason, he decided to utilize ingenuity and diligence to create a solution.

After attending Merritt College for two years, Jason was awarded a tuition scholarship from the Rotary Club of Oakland, enabling him to transfer to UC Berkeley as a junior. At this time, in addition to his studies and community involvement, Jason became the youngest person to ever win a seat on the Oakland School Board—he was only 21 years old.

Jason was elected to the School Board in 1996, after he offered fresh ideas and a student perspective in bringing change to local education programs. Although he had suffered disappointment as a result of the failed "Promise" college funding program, he wanted to do his best to provide opportunity and change for a new generation of Oakland students. He helped administer programs to protect children as they walked to and from school, and to provide transit passes for a safer commute. Jason was one of the first voices to decry the state's lack of funding for local public education, a problem which our community faces in even greater severity today.

Jason served two terms, and decided not to run for re-election to the board after the state took control of the district due to local financial troubles. For the last several years he served as the Vallejo City Unified School District spokesman, also serving as special assistant to Vallejo's superintendent and public information officer.

Jason will be remembered as a warm, compassionate person who was very close to his family. In his free time, he made sure to spend time with the people he loved, and also recently fulfilled a lifelong dream of traveling cross-country by train. He leaves behind his mother, father, three siblings, extended family and many loving friends. Although these days are difficult, I pray that our fond memories of Jason will bring us comfort and strength as we celebrate his life.

Today, California's 9th Congressional District salutes and honors a great human being, Mr. Jason Hodge. The contributions he made to others throughout his life are countless and precious. May his soul rest in peace.

SUPPORT FOR THE "LET WALL STREET PAY FOR THE RESTORATION OF MAIN STREET ACT" INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE PETER DEFAZIO

**HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 15, 2009*

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, years of deregulation and exorbitant risk-taking in the financial markets contributed to the financial turmoil we're in today. Last week, the House passed a bill that would bring common sense reforms on Wall Street so that taxpayers would never again be on the hook for bailing out firms and banks for their risky, irresponsible behavior.

Congress must now pass legislation that puts people back to work. Through TARP, the federal government loaned billions of taxpayer dollars to Wall Street. It's time for Wall Street to help create jobs on Main Street.

This can happen in two ways: by using some of the available TARP funds and by imposing a modest Wall Street transaction tax on certain securities trades. This latter proposal could raise up to \$150 billion a year, part of which could go toward infrastructure investment and partly to debt reduction.

I ask my colleagues to support these proposals so that we can curb speculation and create jobs that will put Americans back to work again.

RECOGNIZING FLORIDA'S PUBLIC SAFETY PARTNERSHIP TO FIND FUGITIVES

**HON. CONNIE MACK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 15, 2009*

Mr. MACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to applaud a new Public Safety Partnership launched in my home state of Florida during this holiday season. This unique effort, entitled "12 Days of Fugitives," is an innovative public outreach plan with the end goal of helping the state and local law enforcement apprehend 12 of Florida's oldest and most violent prison escapees.

The Florida Department of Corrections and Florida Department of Law Enforcement are working with the U.S. Marshals Service, local law enforcement, and the media on this new initiative. Specifically, members of the Florida Outdoor Advertising Association are donating space on digital billboards to display a tip line telephone number together with pictures of the fugitives. In addition, Florida newspapers have committed to feature the fugitives online and in print.

The idea is to empower the public to come forward with information about the whereabouts of these escapees. The most recent escape occurred in 2000; others have been on the run for decades.

Florida has consistently been a pioneer in these types of public safety partnerships. From the beginning, the outdoor advertising

industry was part of the AMBER Alert system in Florida. Now, the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children posts AMBER Alerts on digital billboards across the country.

Madam Speaker, protecting our society from violent crime is extremely important, and often overlooked during this holiday time. This intensive public outreach in the state gives hope to the families and friends of the victims of crime that the perpetrators will be caught and brought to justice. I commend the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, the Florida Department of Corrections, the Florida Outdoor Advertising Association and the media for working together to make Florida a safer place to live, work, and visit.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 15, 2009*

Mrs. MYRICK. Madam Speaker, I was unable to participate in the following vote. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

December 14, 2009, rollcall vote 969, on motion to suspend the rules and agree, as amended—H. Res. 779, Recognizing and supporting the goals and ideals of National Runaway Prevention Month—I would have voted aye.

Rollcall vote 970, on motion to suspend the rules and agree—H. Res. 942, Commending the Real Salt Lake soccer club for winning the 2009 Major League Soccer Cup—I would have voted "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 15, 2009*

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I want to state for the record that yesterday I missed the two rollcall votes of the day. Unfortunately, I missed these votes because I was detained in my district.

Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 969 On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, as Amended—H. Res. 779—Recognizing and supporting the goals and ideals of National Runaway Prevention Month.

Lastly, had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 970 On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree—H. Res. 942—Commending the Real Salt Lake soccer club for winning the 2009 Major League Soccer Cup.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 15, 2009*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, on December 14, 2009, I was un-

avoidably unable to cast my votes for rollcall No. 969 and rollcall No. 970. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

ANDEAN TRADE PREFERENCE EXTENSION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

**HON. BART STUPAK**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 10, 2009*

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on H.R. 4284, a bill that would increase our trade deficit, compromise our labor laws, and delay a much-needed reform to our nation's trade policy.

Since the last extension, in October 2008, Congress has still not adequately addressed the fundamental problems in relation to agriculture and labor practices in this trade preference agreement.

With the on-going debate surrounding the Colombia Free Trade Agreement and the South Korea Free Trade Agreement, and the sharp economic recession, it would be irresponsible to simply extend these preferences without thorough discussions on the effects of our trade policy on American jobs.

Originally passed in 1991, the Andean Trade Preference Act (ATPA) was designed to develop economic alternatives to narcotics production in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru.

However, ATPA has failed to reduce cocaine production and it has harmed American farmers.

As a result of the ATPA, the U.S. had a \$7 billion trade deficit with the four ATPA countries in 2008.

Overall, the U.S. trade deficit has grown to more than \$738 billion and trade policies have cost America 3.2 million manufacturing jobs over the past 10 years.

Because both the Bush and Obama administrations deemed that Bolivia failed to meet eligibility criteria, H.R. 4284 would extend trade preferences only with Columbia, Ecuador, and Peru.

Before extending the Andean Trade Preferences Act for a fourth time, Congress should take a closer look at damage it has done to American farmers and how it has failed to reduce illegal drug production in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru.

Among the great economic challenges our nation faces is creating new trade and globalization policies that serve America's workers, consumers, farmers, and firms.

The Obama administration and Congress have an opportunity to rewrite our trade policy and to create a trade framework that supports American jobs.

Let's seize this opportunity to create a new framework for trade agreements.

New trade agreements must meet basic standards to protect labor rights, environmental standards, food safety regulations, financial regulations, and taxation transparency.

Most importantly, new trade agreements must protect American workers first.

I urge you to vote against H.R. 4284 when it comes to the House floor today so that we can focus on reforming America's trade laws.