

workers who made it are being paid well and being respected.”

One such worker is Maritza Vargas. When BJ&B ran the factory, she was a stand-up-for-your-rights firebrand fighting for 20 union supporters who had been fired.

Student groups and the Worker Rights Consortium pressed Nike and other companies that used the factory to push BJ&B to recognize the union and rehire the fired workers. BJ&B relented. Today, Ms. Vargas is president of the union at the new plant and sings a very different tune. In interviews, she and other union leaders praised the Alta Gracia factory and said they would do their utmost to make it succeed and grow. Mireya Perez said the living wage would enable her to send her 16-year-old daughter to college, while Yolando Simon said she was able to pay off a \$300 debt to a grocer.

At other factories, workers said, managers sometimes yelled or slapped them. Several said they were not allowed to go home when sick, and sometimes had to work past midnight after beginning at 7:30 a.m.

Comparing this factory with other ones, Ms. Vargas said, “The difference is heaven and earth.”

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HONORING ROBERT DEDMAN

**HON. JIM COOPER**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 26, 2010*

Mr. COOPER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Robert Dedman, a dedicated public servant who is completing his third term as Wilson County Mayor. Since 1998, Mayor Dedman has served with distinction as Wilson County's Executive and has announced that he plans to retire at the end of the current term.

A lifelong resident of Lebanon and Wilson County, this native son has also rendered meritorious service to his fellow citizens as Wilson County Assessor of Property and as a Lebanon City Councilman representing Ward 4.

After completing a tour of duty in the United States Army in the 1950's, Robert Dedman worked for the American Legion for many years before entering public service. He began his long and distinguished career in government in 1972, when he was hired as the first Purchasing Agent for the City of Lebanon. He also enjoyed a productive tenure with the Tennessee Secretary of State's Personal Property and Inventory Division from 1978 until 1984. Robert Dedman additionally served Tennessee's 100th General Assembly as a Senate sergeant-at-arms.

Because of his broad experience in local, county, and state governments, Mayor Dedman was successful in promoting a harmonious relationship between and among all levels of government to accomplish Wilson County's future goals.

Madam Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, Robert Dedman is a remarkable man who has compiled a singular record during his exemplary career in county and state government. Please join me in honoring him as he retires after thirty-eight years of outstanding service to the people of Wilson County and Tennessee.

NATIONAL COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND DISASTERS REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

**HON. LAURA RICHARDSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 20, 2010*

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5266, to extend the final report deadline and otherwise reauthorize the national commission on children and disasters. H.R. 5266, is an important piece of legislation that assists a commission whose job is to report to Congress and the President on the necessary precautions and actions needed before major disasters or emergencies.

I would like to thank Speaker PELOSI, Majority Leader HOYER, and Chairman OBERSTAR for their leadership in bringing this bill to the floor. I also thank the sponsor of this legislation, Congresswoman BROWN, for her important work on the reauthorization of the national commission on children and disasters through 2013.

Madam Speaker, in an average 3-year period, roughly 5 hurricanes strike the coastlines of the United States. The 2009 Atlantic hurricane season included 9 named storms, including 3 hurricanes, 2 of which were category 3 or higher. In 2009 there were 1843 earthquakes in the United States between the magnitudes of 3.0 and 6.0. From 2007 to the present, 269 fatalities have resulted from tornadoes. As Chair of the Subcommittee on Emergency Communications, Preparedness, and Response, my Subcommittee recently held a hearing on the difficulties of reaching those with special needs, such as children, during emergencies such as a hurricane or tornado. Children comprise about 25 percent of our population and have unique needs during a disaster that require specific recognition and coordination on the part of federal, state, Tribal and local governments and their non-governmental disaster-relief partners. The rise in major disaster declarations over the past two decades, and more recent disasters have highlighted the need to improve the gaps in preparedness, response and recovery policies that should specifically address the needs of children.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased that H.R. 5266 would reauthorize the National Commission on Children and Disasters through 2013. The National Commission on Children and Disasters examines and reports to the Congress and the President on the needs of children during the preparation for, response to, and recovery from major disasters and emergencies. Under current law, the commission would terminate in 2011.

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, I support this legislation to keep our children safe. I am pleased that Congress is taking action to promote increased safety measures in emergency situations as well as providing the funds in support.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 5266.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. TODD TIAHRT**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 26, 2010*

Mr. TIAHRT. Madam Speaker, on July 22nd, I missed six rollcall votes numbered 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, and 466 because I was unavoidably detained in Kansas.

Rollcall No. 461 was a vote on H. Res. 1550, providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 4213, Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2010. Had I been present, I would have voted “no.”

Rollcall No. 462 was a vote on H.R. 1469, the Child Protection Improvements Act of 2010. Had I been present, I would have voted “aye.”

Rollcall No. 463 was a vote on H.R. 4213, the Unemployment Compensation Extension Act of 2010. Had I been present, I would have voted “no.”

Rollcall No. 464 was a vote on H.R. 5341, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 Orndorf Drive in Brighton, Michigan, as the Joyce Rogers Post Office Building. Had I been present, I would have voted “aye.”

Rollcall No. 465 was a vote on ordering the previous question for H.R. 4773, providing for consideration of H.R. 1264, Multiple Peril Insurance Act of 2009. Had I been present, I would have voted “no.”

Rollcall No. 466 was a vote on H. Res. 1549, providing for consideration of H.R. 1264, Multiple Peril Insurance Act of 2009. Had I been present, I would have voted “no.”

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOHN BARROW**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 26, 2010*

Mr. BARROW. Madam Speaker, due to prior commitments in my district, I was absent from the House Monday, July 19 and Tuesday, July 20, 2010, and thus did not cast any votes on those dates. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following way on bills considered by the House: “yea” on rollcall 448; “yea” on rollcall 449; “yea” on rollcall 450; “yea” on rollcall 451; “yea” on rollcall 452; and “yea” on rollcall 453.

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IN HONOR OF COLONEL GEORGE JUSKALIAN

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 26, 2010*

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Army Colonel George Juskalian, a constituent from Centreville, Virginia, for his dedicated service in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. He passed away on July 4, 2010, at age 96, having served nearly 30 years on active duty.

Colonel Juskalian was one of the most highly decorated Armenian-American veterans to

ever serve in the U.S. Military. He also was a member of the Armenian Assembly of America. He joined the United States Army in 1939 and was called to active duty as a first lieutenant in 1940 and served with distinction in World War II. He continued to serve for three decades, as a battalion commander in combat in the Korean War as well as a military adviser in the Vietnam campaign.

He was in General Eisenhower's secretariat in the Pentagon between 1945 and 1948 and an adviser to the Imperial Iranian Army in Tehran. He was captured by the Germans in Tunisia and spent 27 months in prisoner of war camps in Italy, Germany, and Poland. He retired with the rank of colonel in 1967.

Colonel Juskalian received the Army's second highest award, known as "the Legion of Merit," for non-combat service. He also received the Silver Star, the Bronze Star, the Army Commendation Medal, the Air Medal and the Parachutist Badge, and the combat Infantry Badge with a Star awarded for World War II and the Korean War.

Madam Speaker, I salute Colonel Juskalian for his patriotism and service to our Nation and express deepest sympathy to his wife Lucine and family on his passing.

HONORING MR. J. CLYDE HOOKER,  
JR.

**HON. THOMAS S.P. PERRIELLO**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 26, 2010*

Mr. PERRIELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of a leader in the Martinsville, Virginia, community, Mr. J. Clyde Hooker, Jr., who died on Monday, July 12.

Born December 20, 1920, J. Clyde Hooker, Jr. was the son of J. Clyde Hooker, Sr. and Mabel Bassett Hooker. He graduated as valedictorian from Virginia Military Institute in 1942, and soon after, joined the allied troops in Europe during World War II. He served until 1946 when he was discharged with the rank of Captain. During his service in the Third Army, he was decorated with the Bronze Star and three campaign stars.

Upon returning from abroad, Mr. Hooker began working at his father's furniture business starting out in the factory before entering sales. In 1960, he was elected president of Hooker Furniture and during the ensuing 40 years, took the business to new heights. His ability to recognize changing trends and implement new manufacturing methods enabled the company to grow from 375 employees to over 2,000 and to increase sales from \$4.4 million to \$250 million. His peers recognized him as a giant in the furniture industry, inducting him into the American Furniture Hall of Fame in 1997. Yet, Mr. Hooker will be remembered throughout the Martinsville community for far more than just his contributions to the furniture industry.

Mr. Hooker was active as a philanthropist throughout Martinsville, helping support programs that benefitted a wide range of interests. He provided for children through his support of the local YMCA and Boy Scout troops, for the arts through his donations to the Piedmont Arts Association, for animals through his contributions to the local SPCA, and for the less fortunate through his gifts to the

Martinsville-Henry County United Way. Mr. Hooker, however, gave far more than monetary contributions. He dedicated his time to these organizations and provided them with advice and support. As one local leader stated, "He made everybody feel like they were the most important person in the world."

Most notable, however, was his dedication to his employees. His workers admired him and he treated them as equals, often visiting with them on the floor of the manufacturing plant. Additionally, he and his mother set up the Hooker Educational Foundation to provide scholarships to children and spouses of Hooker Furniture employees.

Mr. Hooker's passing, our community lost a leader and dear friend who can never be replaced. His memory will live on in all of the lives he touched. Mr. Hooker is survived by his devoted wife, Katherine; his daughter Katherine, three grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. On behalf of Virginia's 5th District, I honor the passing of one of our finest business visionaries and magnanimous philanthropists, and ask that his legacy be remembered for years to come.

HONORING BISHOP WALTER L.  
HAWKINS

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 26, 2010*

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life of Grammy Award-winning gospel singer and musical trailblazer, Bishop Walter L. Hawkins. With his passing on July 11, 2010, at the age of 61, we look to Bishop Hawkins' personal legacy of spiritual service, the joy he inspired, and the outstanding quality of his life's work.

A Bay Area native, Walter Hawkins began an unanticipated career in gospel music when, at the age of 19, he sang with the Berkeley-based Ephesians Church of God in Christ's youth choir. The choir, directed by older brother Edwin Hawkins, recorded an album to sell locally as a fundraising effort. It exceeded expectations when the track, "Oh Happy Day," sold over a million copies as an instant pop hit. The Hawkins' enjoyed success as they toured nationally and internationally with the legendary Edwin Hawkins Singers. And in the early 1970s, Walter Hawkins decided to forge another path by entering the ministry.

In 1973, Bishop Hawkins founded the Love Center Church in Oakland where he directed the Love Center Choir. The choir's live album, "Going Up Yonder," became one of the decade's highest selling gospel albums and stayed on Billboard's Gospel Top 40 Chart for three consecutive years. The church's "Love Alive" series of recordings sold over a million copies from the 1970s through the 1990s, with "Love Alive IV" spending an astounding 39 weeks at the top of Billboard's Gospel Chart.

Throughout his prolific career of composition, collaboration, directing, producing, recording and performance, Bishop Hawkins earned myriad accolades, including a Grammy Award, eight Grammy nominations, three Dove Awards and Gospel Music's Lifetime Heritage Award. Even with Bishop Hawkins' musical success, he remained committed to his spirit-filled ministry throughout the Bay Area and the nation.

In Oakland, Bishop Hawkins' ministry enriched and touched the lives of many residents throughout the 9th Congressional District. The musical component of his teachings inspired both spiritual and artistic communities alike with its profound messages of love and hope. Bishop Hawkins was a spiritual leader, an American icon, a gospel music innovator—and he was also a close friend. It was a great joy for me when Bishop Hawkins accepted my invitation a few years ago to perform at the prayer breakfast during the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's Annual Legislative Conference. We all sat transfixed as Bishop Hawkins moved us by performing old gospel classics. It is a memory that I will forever cherish.

Today, California's 9th Congressional District salutes and honors Bishop Walter L. Hawkins. We celebrate his amazing life as we mourn his passing. He was a friend and a great man who will be remembered as one of the most beloved figures in contemporary gospel music. Although we will miss Bishop Hawkins tremendously, his musical genius, his ministry and his abounding spirit will live on with his legacy. My thoughts and prayers are with Bishop Hawkins' brother Edwin, his children, grandchildren, and an extended group of loved ones. It is my hope that they find comfort in their deep and abiding faith during this time of loss. Bishop Hawkins will be deeply missed. May his soul rest in peace.

IN RECOGNITION OF YERECIC  
LABEL OF NEW KENSINGTON,  
PENNSYLVANIA

**HON. MARK S. CRITZ**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 26, 2010*

Mr. CRITZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Yerecic Label, a New Kensington, Pennsylvania company who has been honored with the Employer Support Freedom Award from the Secretary of Defense.

Initiated in 1996, the Employer Support Freedom Award was created by the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), an organization within the Department of Defense. The ESGR's mission is to "develop and promote employer support for Guard and Reserve service by advocating relevant initiatives, recognizing outstanding support, increasing awareness of applicable laws, and resolving conflict between employers and service members." As a part of fulfilling that mission, the ESGR awards 15 employers nationally who go above and beyond in offering support to employees that are members of the National Guard or the Reserves.

Out of 2,500 nominations from Guard and Reserve members and their families, Yerecic Label was chosen as one of our country's top employers who take the extra initiative to support our men and women in uniform. Starting as a small labeling company out of a garage in western Pennsylvania in 1969, Yerecic has grown to accommodate the needs of customers throughout the eastern half of the United States. Along with their continued successful business practices, Yerecic has stood by and offered assistance to its employees who are on call and ready to defend our country.