

In his role, Mr. Weigand has conducted numerous campaigns in the Aerospace, Service Contract and Automotive sectors of industry. He was also instrumental in securing collective bargaining agreements in the Service Contract arena which included White Sands Missile Range and Kirtland Air Force Base. His 31 years of membership, dedication, and service to the Machinists Union have centered upon core values of organized labor: fair pay for an honest day's work, dignified treatment in the workplace, and equal opportunity for all. In recent years, those kinds of organized labor struggles have come under increasing attack. Yet the strength of the labor movement is visible in leaders like Mr. Weigand.

Mr. Weigand's dedication to the well-being of working New Mexican machinists and aerospace workers resulted in many sacrifices in his own life. Yet his work has been instrumental in mentoring numerous union activists in hopes of maintaining a middle class America, while allowing for those less fortunate to realize their American dream. This great nation should continue to be the land of equal opportunity as it was intended by our forefathers.

In New Mexico, when many other sectors recently struggled or lost jobs, our innovative industries grew in revenue and contributed to our national defense, energy independence, and economic vitality. Those sectors are helping our nation's ability to rise to the challenges of the 21st century and they're also providing high-skill high-wage jobs. I appreciate Mr. Weigand's leadership in those New Mexican sectors, including high technology manufacturing and aerospace.

I am proud to honor Mr. Rod Weigand for his continued leadership in strengthening the manufacturing and aerospace industry in New Mexico and for promoting the well-being of its workers. The impact of leaders like Mr. Weigand and the Machinists and Aerospace Workers is critical to New Mexico's future. As a result, today's workers enjoy benefits far beyond what they had before and in the words of IAM, "it doesn't cost to be a union member—it pays." I wish Mr. Weigand and his family our best in all of their future endeavors.

THE GRAND OPENING OF THE
HEART MOUNTAIN WYOMING
INTERPRETATIVE LEARNING
CENTER

HON. CYNTHIA M. LUMMIS

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Mrs. LUMMIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Grand Opening of the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation's Interpretative Learning Center in my home State of Wyoming. While the Heart Mountain Relocation Center symbolizes a sad time in our nation's history, the opening of the Interpretative Learning Center begins a new era. It will be a first class educational facility that preserves and teaches the lessons embodied in the war-time experience of people of Japanese ancestry confined during World War II.

The Heart Mountain Relocation Center was located on then public lands in Park County, Wyoming. It was named after the Heart Mountain Butte visible in the distance. It was, and

is, in a very rural area of Wyoming. It held nearly 14,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry during World War II on 740 acres. At the time it was the third largest community in Wyoming.

Heart Mountain was one of ten internment camps in the American West established by the War Relocation Authority and authorized by President Roosevelt under Executive Order shortly after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Under the justification of national security, the U.S. military was authorized to create military zones on the West Coast from which residents of Japanese ancestry were excluded.

The Heart Mountain Relocation Center was surrounded by guard towers and barbed wire fences and consisted of 650 barrack-style buildings, including a hospital, other support facilities and 468 residential units. Nearly two-thirds of those imprisoned at Heart Mountain were American citizens born in the United States and living in California, Oregon and Washington States. Internees were able to take few possessions with them and were forced to leave their homes, farms, and businesses.

Yet, despite their unjust imprisonment, the Japanese Americans at Heart Mountain never forgot that they were Americans. While residing at the Relocation Center, internees set up systems for democratic governance, health care, education, farming, and community services. More than 800 internees served in the U.S. armed forces during World War II, 11 of whom were killed and 52 wounded in battle.

This dark spot on the history of America and Wyoming nevertheless created lasting friendships and an indelible imprint on Northwest Wyoming. While he was a young Boy Scout living in Cody, Wyoming, former Wyoming Senator Alan Simpson met former Representative and Secretary of Commerce and Transportation Norman Mineta when the Minetas were interned at Heart Mountain. They remain dear friends today. Senator Simpson, Secretary Mineta, and the people of Northwest Wyoming have wholeheartedly embraced the efforts of the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation to share this history with future generations.

The Heart Mountain Interpretative Learning Center is the culmination of a 15-year grassroots undertaking to preserve the historic site and interpret what occurred there for current and future generations of Americans. The Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation has raised nearly \$5 million through private donations, including significant contributions by former Heart Mountain internees. This funding has been used to acquire 50 acres at the original site and construct the Interpretative Learning Center. This effort has been supported by the Park County Commissioners, the Cody Country Chamber of Commerce, the Powell Valley Chamber of Commerce, the Park County Travel Council and the Northwest Region of the Wyoming Business Council.

The Center will house a number of permanent exhibits and artifacts in a barracks-like structure that will capture a sense of everyday life at the Relocation Center. Visitors will learn about the lives the internees left behind and the upheaval caused by the forced evacuation from their homes. There are a number of interactive displays and exhibits to help recreate the experience. There also will be an opportunity for visitors to gain insight into the post-war challenges for internees and the tragic legacy of civil rights abuses.

The world class facility will serve as a national center for education, policy and research in collaboration with universities and historic preservation organizations. Most significantly, it will be a visible reminder of the need to balance national security with respect for the civil rights of citizens.

The Heart Mountain Interpretative Learning Center, located between Cody and Powell, Wyoming, is located only 50 miles from Yellowstone National Park and Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area. Over 1,000 internees, descendents, and supporters from across the nation will attend the Grand Opening of the Heart Mountain Interpretative Learning Center later this month. It is my hope that my colleagues and their constituents will take time to visit the Heart Mountain Interpretative Learning Center when they visit Wyoming.

I congratulate the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation, and applaud the opening of a learning center designed to help us never to forget the importance of the liberties granted to all of us by our Constitution.

HONORING THE INTERNATIONAL
UNION OF OPERATING ENGI-
NEERS, LOCAL 478 AS THEY CELE-
BRATE THEIR CENTENNIAL AN-
NIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to join the many who have gathered to celebrate "A Century of Building Connecticut"—the 100th Anniversary of the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 478. Over the last century, the members of Local 478 have been an integral part of Connecticut's construction industry, involved in some of the most important and influential projects in our state. The proud members of Local 478 work tirelessly to make the Union the premier supplier of heavy equipment operators, mechanics, and support personnel in Connecticut.

Local 478 began as most trade unions did—with a group of workers banding together to negotiate safer working conditions and better pay. The 18 original members of Local 478 were granted a charter by the International Union of Steam Engineers in September of 1911. Over the course of its history, Local 478 was also granted several other charters, including the Hoisting and Portable Charter, the Journeyman and Apprentice Charter, as well as the 478B, 478C, 478D and 478E charters—all of which represent the various skills and crafts of today's membership.

One hundred years later, Local 478 continues to serve the interests of their membership. From its humble beginnings, Local 478 has grown to represent more than four thousand members and it has ensured that each of its members and their families have access to state-of-the-art training, fair wages and benefits, and a secure retirement. These are protections that these hard-working men and women rightly deserve. Their work to provide and maintain our state's infrastructure strengthens our communities and improves the quality of life for all Connecticut residents. From the inception of the Merritt Parkway,