

We must stop this unconscionable accumulation of debt.

HONORING THE MORRIS CHORAL SOCIETY IN MORRISTOWN

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2013

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Morris Choral Society of Morristown, New Jersey, which is celebrating its 40th anniversary in the summer of 2013.

The creation of the Morris Choral Society can be likened to that of the birth of a Phoenix bird. Tragically, in 1972, the United Methodist Church, located on the Morristown Green, burned down and as a result the proceeding Methodist congregations were held at Temple B'nai Or for the next two years as the Church was rebuilt. R. Wayne Walters, a bass soloist who performed at both the Temple and Church, decided to conduct a special Friday evening service dedicated to the generosity of the Temple and its Rabbi, Z. David Levy. In order to perform this service, chorus members from the surrounding area churches were assembled. Due to the success of the performance, Rabbi Levy asked Walters to keep this wonderful group of people together and continue performing. Eventually, under Walters's leadership, this collection of singers was incorporated under the name of Morris Choral Society in the summer of 1973, effectively rising out of the ashes and spawning a new organization.

Since the society has been formed, it has maintained a dual mission statement attempting, "To make available to all residents of the Morris area varied choral musical programs and to give residents an opportunity to perform in the choral organization." Those who have been affected by the Morris Choral Society would say that its contributions to society have gone much farther than initially intended by positively impacting the choral outlook throughout Northern New Jersey. Additionally, MCS has garnered much public attention through appearances on television programs, such as NBC's "First Estate" program, and its two major concerts that are performed in Morris County each year. Through continuing interest, the society has grown in size and is open to new members via auditions.

Furthermore, the Morris Choral Society conducts numerous, smaller performances during Morristown's holidays and special occasions. These shows generally occur during the Independence Day celebrations, the Holly Walk, the Fall Festival on the Green, and the First Night concert. Incredibly, MCS is now internationally recognized after memorable performances in England in 1990, Ireland in 1994, Scotland & Wales in 1996, France in 1998, and Italy during the summer of 2000. Through international travel and a growing interest in different music, the Society has obtained an astounding repertoire of songs dating from the Renaissance period to the present.

Besides annual events, the Morris Choral Society has performed alongside many famous musicians during its lifetime. Unforgettable nights include performing with Judy Collins during her Christmas Show, and with

Dave Brubeck in La Fiesta de la Posada in the Community Theatre. MCS has also sung Beethoven's Ninth Symphony under the celebrated Leon Hyman, collaborated with Jazz Pianist Rio Clemente, and performed a sold-out concert at the Morristown Community Theater in front of over 1,300 viewers.

Consistently trying to excel, the Society has emphasized versatility in music styles ranging from contemporary American, to classical Broadway theatre, to even some international folk songs articulated in their native languages. Expanding to different venues and compiling diversified music is what keeps MCS ahead of most other musical organizations in the area.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and your colleagues to join me in congratulating the Morris Choral Society as it celebrates its 40th anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO AMBASSADOR RON KIRK

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2013

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ambassador Ron Kirk for his outstanding service as United States Trade Representative. As a member of President Obama's Cabinet, he has led the United States toward a stronger economic future.

A former Texas Secretary of State, Ambassador Kirk became the first African-American mayor of my hometown Dallas, Texas, in 1995. During Ambassador Kirk's tenure as Mayor, he pursued trade policies and economic development initiatives that helped generate over 45,000 jobs and billions of dollars of investment in Dallas. He also prioritized public safety and oversaw the lowest crime rate in Dallas in 20 years.

In his role as U.S. Trade Representative, Ambassador Kirk brought together a broad coalition of Americans to support free trade agreements with Korea, Colombia, and Panama, opening up new markets for American businesses and creating jobs here at home. Ambassador Kirk advanced high stakes regional Trans-Pacific Partnership talks and worked to maintain significant U.S. engagement in the World Trade Organization. His stellar list of accomplishments also includes supporting U.S. businesses and workers with his strong enforcement of U.S. trade rights and assisting small businesses eager to access international markets.

Mr. Speaker, Ambassador Kirk is both a dear friend and an ardent public servant. I applaud Ambassador Kirk's commitment to serving U.S. businesses and workers, and his dedication to moving United States trade policies forward. He has been a devoted advocate for American workers and our economy, and I am thankful for his service to our country.

HONORING THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SHEET METAL, AIR, RAIL, AND TRANSPORTATION WORKERS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2013

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to congratulate the members of the International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail, and Transportation Workers (SMART), as they celebrate the 125th anniversary of the union's founding. The members and officers of SMART are to be commended for their dedication and recognized for the union's history of remarkable achievements.

SMART, formerly known as the Sheet Metal Workers' International Association and the United Transportation Union, is a truly inventive, progressive, and strong union made up of skilled craftsmen throughout the United States, Canada, and Puerto Rico. Representing construction, sheet metal, transportation, railroad, shipyard, and production employees in the industry, SMART works tirelessly to ensure safe working conditions, living wages and benefits, and growth opportunities for its employees.

Since its founding in 1888, SMART has been one of labor's most ambitious and diligent organizations. Throughout history, its union leaders and members have been through many struggles and triumphs seeking to bring about hope for workers seeking fair wages, hours, and benefits while contributing to the structural development and building of the United States. Since the late 1920s, members and officers have contributed to the welfare of the country at home and abroad. From their assistance with the production of Charles Lindberg's airplane, the Spirit of Saint Louis, designed for his historic flight across the Atlantic Ocean, to the building and sustaining of America's Navy in our nation's shipyards, as well as the union's support in the World Trade Center tragedy, SMART's members are worthy of the highest praise.

Northwest Indiana has a rich history of excellence in its craftsmanship and loyalty among its tradesmen. The members and officers of SMART are outstanding examples of these qualities. They have demonstrated their loyalty to both the union and communities internationally through their hard work and selfless dedication.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring the past and present hardworking members and officers of SMART and to congratulate the organization on the 125th anniversary of its founding. They have committed themselves to making a significant contribution to the growth and development in Northwest Indiana, throughout the United States, and abroad.

BRYAN WILBURN TAKES THE RANK OF AN EAGLE SCOUT TO ANOTHER LEVEL

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 5, 2013

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Bryan Wilburn is a young man from Baytown, Texas