July 30, 1999

“(b) It is a defense to a prosecution under this section that the badge is used exclusively—
“(1) in a collection or exhibit;
“(2) for decorative purposes; or
“(3) for theatrical, film, or television production.
“(c) As used in this section—
“(1) the term ‘genuine police badge’ means an official badge issued by public authority to identify an individual as a law enforce-
merit officer having police powers; and
“(2) the term ‘counterfeit police badge’ means an item that so resembles a police badge that it would deceive an ordinary indi-
vidual into believing it was a genuine police badge.”

THE CONNECTICUT STATE TECH-
NOLOGY EXTENSION PROGRAM

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON
OF CONNECTICUT
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, July 29, 1999

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in support of a program very important to Connecticut. With Congress presently debating its annual spending bills, people may wonder how the budget affects them and their well-being. I would like to take this opportunity to tell you about one particular program of which I am a strong supporter—the Connecticut State Technology Extension program (CONN/STEP). CONN/STEP helps Connecticut manufacturers become more competitive through the use of advanced manufacturing and management technologies. Through their team of field engineers CONN/STEP provides onsite technical assistance, detailed assessments, outlines potential solutions, and identifies external service providers. CONN/STEP is funded jointly by the State Department of Economic and Community Development and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) under the Department of Commerce.

Here’s how CONN/STEP helped one local company in Bristol, Connecticut. Ultimate Wireforms manufactures arch wires and other orthodontic appliances from superelastic/memory alloys and stainless steel for orthodontic applications. The arch wires apply pressure to teeth, slowly causing them to move a pre-determined amount to correctly position teeth. The company has provided support to the orthodontic industry since 1989 and currently employs 65 people.

Ultimate Wireforms was searching for opportunities to expand their product offerings and decided to focus on the Titanium arch wire business which was undergoing rapid growth. Titanium arch wires apply higher forces to the teeth, which accelerate the corrective orthodontic process. Ultimately, however, there was no titanium technology experts in house and was being restricted from entering this market by an existing patent, held by a competitor.

Ultimately, the company decided to focus on the Titanium arch wires for orthodontic applications. The arch wires apply pressure to teeth, slowly causing them to move a predetermined amount to correctly position teeth. The company has provided support to the orthodontic industry since 1989 and currently employs 65 people.

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As a result of CONN/STEP’s assistance, Ultimate Wireforms has expanded its product offerings, entered the Titanium arch market and is now enjoying a 60% increase in sales.

Satisfied with the technical service, Ultimate Wireforms has subsequently entered into several additional projects with CONN/STEP, including a comprehensive assessment of their accounting and financial system to help Ultimate better understand their internal functions as well as their place in the market.

Bob has not only encouraged federal employees to become more involved politically at both the national and grassroots levels, he has also pursued litigation as a tool to advance and expand worker interests. Bob has not only led the fight in landmark court battles, but before the Federal Labor Relations Authority, the Merit Systems Protection Board, the Federal Service Impasses Panel, and the Office of Personnel Management.

Under his leadership, federal employees won a federal court victory giving them the right to engage in informational picketing; a Supreme Court win that overturned the ban on knowledge and writing free literature; an early this year, another Supreme Court victory in a critical case that established in law the right of federal employees and their collective bargaining representatives to initiate mid-term bargaining. That victory gives employees the same rights that agency managers have, and, to a very great extent, levels the negotiations playing field.

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned previously, I have worked closely with Bob Tobias on numerous federal employee issues. He has dual goals that he has continued to achieve throughout his tenure at NTEU—protecting the rights of federal employees, and ensuring that our government effectively and efficiently accomplishes its job. It has been my honor to work with Bob in meeting those goals. As one of the primary advocates for federal employees, Bob constantly reminded us of the necessity of hiring the best and the brightest to work in the government, and the necessity of retaining those employees who have the knowledge and expertise to get the job done. He and I have worked together to keep federal employees in the workforce by making sure that they have the same rights, benefits, and protections as do their colleagues in the private sector.

Before I came to Congress, I worked as a high-tech executive for a government contracting firm in Northern Virginia. We made it our top priority to treat our human capital as our most valuable asset. Unfortunately, the federal government does not do that. Bob Tobias has devoted his entire career to giving federal employees a stronger voice.

For many years, Bob has sought to educate the members of NTEU and federal employees of the importance of participating in the legislative process. I have had the opportunity to speak to the Northern Virginia legislative leaders as well as those who represent their colleagues from across the country at NTEU’s annual legislative conference in Washington, D.C. It is apparent to me that the legislative program is thriving because of Bob Tobias and his commitment to ensuring that the voices of federal employees are heard on Capitol Hill.

NTEU was one of the main forces behind passage of a bipartisan bill, signed into law by President George Bush that would close the pay gap between the government and the private sector. Since the Federal Employees Pay
Mr. Unis died at the age of 81, and is survived by his wife, Dorothy, and four children, Tom, Joseph, Cheryl, and Mary. Though the City of Dallas will mourn the death of Mr. Unis, we should remember his own words: “I’ve had a lot of fun all my life,” we should also celebrate his accomplishments, and the fact that he lived a long and memorable life. We all have lost an incredible person, but celebrate Mr. Unis’s full and successful life.

HONORING YOSHITO TAKAHASHI

HONOR OF CALIFORNIA IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 1999

Mr. RA DONOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Yoshito Takahashi, an American citizen of Japanese ancestry who was born in a camp in Texas. Yoshito Takahashi has received numerous awards for his extensive community involvement. In 1977, he was named Clovis Citizen of the Year. Two years later, he was inducted into the Clovis Citizens Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Yoshito Takahashi, a true friend to the people of this community and for promoting U.S. and Japan relations. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Takahashi, his wife, and family, many more years of continued success.