

## TRIBUTE TO GILBERT WOLF

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STRICKLAND) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. STRICKLAND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a good friend and a great American, Mr. Gilbert Wolf. On April 1 of this year, Gilbert Wolf retired as Director of the National Plastering Industry's Joint Apprenticeship Trust Fund and Administrator of the Plasterers and Cement Masons Job Corps Training Program. After 49 years in the industry, Mr. Wolf has left a legacy of superior skills training directed toward young people entering the construction trades.

A plasterer by trade, Mr. Wolf began his own career as an apprentice and went on to become a journeyman and then apprentice instructor. In 1969, he was instrumental in securing a contract with the Department of the Interior to train economically disadvantaged youth to become plasterers and cement masons. After a successful operation in three Job Corps centers, Mr. Wolf was awarded additional contracts with the Department of the Interior and labor. The Plasterers and Cement Masons Job Corps Training Program, under Gilbert Wolf's guidance, now boasts participation in 41 centers throughout the United States.

Training and motivating youth in careers in the construction industry has been Mr. Wolf's major focus for over four decades. He spearheaded several national events to bring the need for youth training to the forefront. Competition was one of his favorite themes. The result was three international apprenticeship competitions over a 5-year period; two Job Corps national competitions and countless skills demonstrations at trade shows and construction industry events throughout the United States. These events consistently showed the public the need for and the importance of solid skills training.

The Smithsonian Institute's famous Festival of Life became the setting for another national skills demonstration by Job Corps students from around the country. Mr. Wolf led the committees who organized the 2-week long festivals and won a spot on Good Morning America.

Mr. Wolf also coauthored papers on historical preservation and restoration with the Department of the Interior and the National Trust for Historical Preservation. A partnership with the NTHP brought opportunities for Job Corps students to learn and to work on important historical landmarks and to develop specialized skills.

Mr. Wolf also coauthored the Incentive Apprenticeship Training Course, which guides instructors through the process of training a number of people at multiple levels.

Gilbert Wolf is also credited with pushing hard to increase the number of

women and other minorities into skills training and the construction industry. He was the first in the Job Corps to hire a woman as an instructor in a non-traditional trade.

When asked what has kept him going in this industry for the last 49 years, Mr. Wolf responded, where are the future skilled crafts people coming from, and who will train them? Passing a legacy of knowledge from one generation to the next is the backbone of our building industry. Young people are our only chance to keep building a strong America.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I want to express my own personal deep appreciation for the fact that Gilbert Wolf has been a mentor to my brother Roger and a valued friend to me. This Nation would be stronger and we would all be better people if more of us were more like Gil Wolf. I wish him a long, healthy, and happy retirement.

## PIPELINE SAFETY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, in June 1999, a gasoline pipeline ruptured in Bellingham, Washington, and the ensuing fireball killed three young men. Following that tragedy, the House of Representatives did nothing.

Several months ago, a fuel pipeline ruptured by the Patuxent River in Maryland, spilling over 100,000 gallons of fuel, creating an environmental disaster. And following that disaster, the U.S. House of Representatives did nothing.

Several weeks ago in New Mexico, in Madam Speaker's own State, entire families were incinerated in a terrible tragedy due to a ruptured natural gas pipeline. And to date, despite many of our best efforts, the U.S. House of Representatives has done nothing.

□ 1930

This Chamber, despite this continuing toll of human loss and environmental loss, has not moved one bill through committee, has not moved one bill to the floor of the House of Representatives for a vote despite many of our bipartisan efforts to accomplish a meaningful bill this year.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to call on the House leadership to bring forward to this Chamber a meaningful, comprehensive, pipeline safety bill with real teeth. And we have several to choose from in the House. We have a bipartisan bill cosponsored by the gentleman from Washington (Mr. METCALF), a Republican from the Second District in Washington, and myself, H.R. 4558. I am a prime sponsor on a bill, House bill 4792, bills that will achieve something we have long needed in this country and that is statutorily

codified inspection criteria to require that pipelines in this country are inspected on a regular basis to try to prevent these tragedies.

Now, why is that so important? It is important because the tradition in the last several decades here has been of abject failure. What has happened before is that when tragedies of this nature have occurred, the U.S. Congress has passed bills that have essentially deferred to an administrative agency, to the Office of Pipeline Safety, and have directed the Office of Pipeline Safety to adopt meaningful inspection criteria, to adopt meaningful training criteria for operators.

And what has happened despite those continued grants of discretion to the administrative agency? Well, what has happened is total failure.

In 1992, this Chamber required requirements to identify high-risk pipelines. And yet, in a new millennium, we still do not have a regulation or rule requiring that. We have the National Transportation Safety Board. It found "in 1987, the Safety Board recommended that the Office of Pipeline Safety require pipeline operators to periodically inspect their pipelines to identify corrosion, mechanical damage, or other time dependent defects that may prohibit their safe operations. Yet, 13 years after our initial recommendation was issued, there are no regulations that require pipeline operators to perform periodic inspections or tests to locate and assess whether this type of damage exists on other pipelines."

Thirteen years and yet we are on the cusp of a failure if we do not pass a bill that has a statutorily required maximum period between inspections.

Now, the other Chamber, Madam Speaker, has passed a bill that again requires and gives discretion to the Office of Pipeline Safety to act. Well, frankly, we need a tougher bill. We need to break this chain of failure in the U.S. Congress. We need to bring to the floor of this House a bill that will have a statutorily codified inspection regime to make sure that these pipelines are in fact inspected.

I believe we can obtain a bipartisan resolution and get a bill to conference committee relatively quickly to do that under the leadership of the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Chairman SHUSTER) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR), the ranking member.

There have been lots of discussions, and I believe we can find a bipartisan solution to this to make sure we pass a meaningful bill.

I want to address a couple of other things our bill needs to do if we are going to give Americans the confidence they deserve in their pipelines. Besides the inspection, we have got to pass a bill that has meaningful training requirements for the people who operate