

90th year. To read what he has done is to wonder if anybody else did anything.

He has generously given of his considerable talents to virtually every worthy cause and individual. In 1943 he successfully fought the extradition of a young African American to North Carolina. He has been named an honorary Puerto Rican, by the Board of Directors of the Puerto Rican Day Parade, is a charter member and founder of the Bronx Urban League, and a life member of the Zionist Organization of America.

He has been honored by, among too many others to mention, the Bronx Council of churches, the National Conference of Christians and Jews, the Bronx Boys and Girls Club, the American Red Cross, the Bronx YMCA, and the Albert Einstein College of Medicine (which he helped to found).

He has organized fund raisers for many worthy organizations. He helped to found the South Bronx Board of Trade, aiding minority businesses in particular, and was four-time president of the Bronx Chamber of Commerce. If that wasn't enough, he is probably the only man to have a housing development, a gym and a swimming pool named after him.

Elias Karmon's accomplishments would scare lesser people. Even in his 90th year, he is not slowing down, for which we all give thanks. I want to thank him for the many outstanding and wonderful things he has done for the Bronx and its people and wish him many more years.

REAUTHORIZING AND REFORMING
THE COMMODITY EXCHANGE ACT

HON. CHARLES W. STENHOLM

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, today our colleague from Illinois, Mr. EWING, who chairs the Subcommittee on Risk Management, Research, and Specialty Crops of the Committee on Agriculture, is introducing a bill to begin the process of reauthorizing and reforming the Commodity Exchange Act (CEA).

Mr. Speaker, the CEA is the primary statute providing for the regulation of futures and futures options trading in the United States. While its provisions are founded in legislation adopted by Congress in the 1920s, the Act has been modified repeatedly over the years in response to changing market conditions. We have changed the Act to cover metals and energy products, to cover trading in foreign currencies, to cover bonds and stock indexes, and to permit trading in options on futures. Each innovation that the market has brought forward presented challenges to Congress and to regulators. Along with the increase in contracts traded, total volume of trading in derivatives has grown vigorously and consistently over recent decades.

In particular, over the last 15 years is the market in over-the-counter derivatives such as swaps and forward rate agreements has increased tremendously. Because these products have economic characteristics so similar to exchange-traded futures contracts, a legal debate has taken place over whether or not

they are in fact covered under the CEA. The Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) has generally found that these products are not appropriately regulated as futures contracts and has used powers at its disposal to settle that question to the extent possible.

In 1989, the Commission issued the "Swaps Policy Statement" laying out in essence a safe harbor for trading in over-the-counter derivatives. So that the agency would have more flexibility in addressing the swap situation and other situations, the Congress in 1992 granted the CFTC the authority to issue exemptions from the CEA to contracts that meet specified conditions. The CFTC has used that authority to exempt swaps (and other OTC derivatives), hybrid securities, and certain energy contracts from CEA regulation. In spite of these actions, an element of legal uncertainty remains regarding these products.

Mr. Speaker, this Congress has recognized that the financial services industry is changing rapidly. We face this reality very clearly in the derivatives world. During a recent speech before the International Organization of Securities Commissions, CFTC Chairman William J. Rainer pointed out that only two new exchanges sought CFTC approval between 1986 and 1997, while in the last six months the CFTC has become aware of numerous electronic exchanges that may soon seek the agency's approval. Technological advances are greatly complicating our task of keeping our regulatory systems up to date.

Mr. Speaker, financial capital flows across international boundaries today with an ease that was unimaginable only ten years ago. As our commercial world continues to shrink in this manner, we see ever more clearly how vulnerable our industries can be to outside competition if we hamper them with unreasonable or inappropriate regulation.

Mr. Speaker, these changes and trends challenge the Agriculture Committee—working together with the Banking and Commerce Committees—to again update the CEA. Chairman EWING has vigorously engaged all segments of this industry in an effort to discover what improvements need to be made. Thanks to his effort, the task has been clarified and we are poised to proceed ahead on legislation that meets these objectives:

Provides full legal certainty to the OTC derivatives industry so that the rules of commerce will be clear.

Modernizes our scheme for the regulation of trading that occurs on exchanges.

Eliminates statutory barriers to trading products that can be useful to the management of financial risk.

Mr. Speaker, I support Chairman EWING's effort and am committed to participating alongside with him. I share his goals and know that we can find common ground on how they can be achieved. Important components of the legislation he introduces today are the result of very productive industry discussions and I believe they will lay an excellent foundation for modernization of the CEA. Along with industry representatives, the several regulators involved are engaged in cooperative discussions—a condition that has often been lacking in past modernization efforts—and stand to be extremely helpful in resolving these tasks.

Mr. Speaker, while domestic modernization of financial contract regulation is an important

goal I will also work to develop provisions that promote the goal of international harmonization of regulatory standards. The Bank for International Settlements (BIS) has demonstrated in recent years that a great deal of coordination can be achieved. In particular, the BIS has devised uniform capital standards that have been widely adopted by bank regulators of the major industrialized nations.

Securities and futures regulators have also made great strides in recent years in creating formal lines of communication with their foreign counterparts to prepare for coordinated responses to cross-border crises. Already they serve as members of the International Organization of Securities Commissions, which has facilitated much of this progress and served as a tool for its member nations to become familiar with the regulatory systems that exist.

Our recent history has shown us that manufacturing capacity moves easily offshore. The manufacturing capacity of financial contracts—capital—moves across borders with much greater ease in search of the lowest cost investment environment. By encouraging continued international discussions regarding regulatory standards, we can encourage the elimination of artificial distortions that threaten the competitiveness of our futures exchanges and other financial institutions. As we develop CEA improvements, we should do all we can to facilitate international coordination and harmonization.

Mr. Speaker, in the weeks ahead I trust that all interested members of the public will take the opportunity to closely examine the bill Mr. EWING introduces today. I am particularly hopeful that the markets' end-users—including agricultural producers and merchants, energy producers, and investors—will pay close attention and provide detailed comments regarding their view of the challenge of achieving appropriate regulation of derivatives markets. I look forward to assimilating those views and to working closely with Chairman EWING, with the Subcommittee Ranking Member, Mr. CONDIT, and others on the Agriculture Committee and other committees in this effort.

HONORING KAY McMANUS

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the outstanding achievement of Kay McManus, one of the many constituents who distinguishes my Congressional District.

Kay works tirelessly to ensure that the children in our schools receive the nutrition they need to pay attention in class, participate in after school activities and do all of the things that young adults need to do to grow into thoughtful adults. We know that when a child receives a good breakfast he or she performs at a higher level. Hungry children have more respiratory illnesses and are absent from school more often than children who are well fed. Many children receive two out of their three meals at school—and it is critical that nutritional choices are available to them. Kay's work is making that possible.

May 25, 2000

The American School Food Service Association recently recognized Kay's hard work by naming her the "Outstanding Director of the Year." This is the first time that this award has ever been given. It will be bestowed annually on a Food Service director whose work serves as a model for Food Service programs across the country. Future recipients of this award have a tough act to follow. I am proud to represent a district that has so many dedicated, committed individuals. Kay, thank you for making America a better place.

WE THE PEOPLE . . . THE
CITIZENS AND THE CONSTITUTION

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Mr. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the We the People. . . . The Citizen and the Constitution program, and applaud the outstanding East High School students that came to Washington, DC, after winning the state competition and went on to win an Honorable Mention as one of the top ten finalists in the national finals. These young scholars have worked diligently to make it to the finals and their hard work has gained them a deep knowledge and understanding of the fundamental principles and values of our constitutional democracy.

The names of the students are: Adrienne Cassart, Emma Douglas, Kelly Durcan, Jill Friedman, Aaron Goldhammer, Jessica Harvey, Elizabeth Hultin, Matt Johnson, Casey Madison, Merrin McCabe, Emily Olson, Joe Pallett, Elisha Roberts, Evan Samples, Erica Simms and Grant Wylie. Additionally, I would like to commend their teacher Edna Sutton who deserves much of the credit for the success of this great team and recognize the District Coordinator, Loyal Darr, and the State Coordinator, Barbara Miller.

The We the People. . . . The Citizen and the Constitution program is the most extensive educational program in the country developed specifically to educate young people about the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The three-day national competition is modeled after hearings in the United States Congress. These hearings consist of oral presentations by the students acting as constitutional experts before a "congressional committee" made up of a panel of judges acting as Members. The student testimony is followed by a period of questioning during which the judges probe students for their depth of understanding and ability to apply their constitutional knowledge.

I know first hand how well this program works because I was a volunteer coach for years at a high school back in my district in Denver, whose students have done extraordinarily well in the We the People. . . . competitions over the last decade. East High School has been among the top ten finalists most years since they have competed, and they won the competition in 1992.

Once again, I commend the East team for winning the state competition and winning Honorable Mention as one of the top 10 finalists in the national finals.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CELEBRATING SMALL BUSINESS
WEEK

HON. RUBEN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise as a member of the House Committee on Small Business and a former small business owner in celebration of the 37th annual Small Business Week.

What better time to recognize America's small businesses and their vital contribution to our nation's well-being. With the advent of a new economy, it is especially appropriate to talk about how high-risk, fast-growing entrepreneurial firms are creating jobs and unprecedented economic growth across the country.

Our challenge is to spread the word across the country that we must do more to support and strengthen risk taking entrepreneurs in both big cities and small towns. In so doing, we will ensure that ever-accelerating global change remains our country's ally. Then we will continue to bring the benefits of our entrepreneurial economy home to every community in America.

IN HONOR OF THE RETIREMENT
OF REV. ROBERT T. STROMMEN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the Rev. Robert T. Strommen on the occasion of his retirement after 41 years of ministry.

Mr. Strommen graduated from Princeton University in 1956, then went on to earn a master's of divinity from Union Theological Seminary in New York City. He was ordained in 1959, and served as pastor of St. John's United Church of Christ in Larimer, Pennsylvania for the next 7 years. In 1967, Reverend Strommen was called to Philadelphia, where he served as Minister of Metropolitan Mission for the United Church of Christ.

Throughout his many years of faithful service, Reverend Strommen has been active in community affairs. He received an award from the Greenburg-Jeanette Chapter of the NAACP for his services. In Philadelphia he worked with leaders of inner city congregations and developed Conference urban strategy. He also worked with the Philadelphia Welfare Rights Organization, the Action Alliance of Senior Citizens, and other community action groups.

Reverend Strommen began working with the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries in 1976, serving as secretary for Social and Urban Concerns. He was very involved in issues related to health and welfare and also coordinated the Board for Homeland Ministries' Minister of Metropolitan Mission program. In 1987, Mr. Strommen developed a program for training for mission outreach with local churches.

Since September, 1988, Reverend Strommen has served as association minister

9437

of the Western Reserve Association of the Ohio Conference. He continues to be involved in urban issues, and has served on the steering committee of the Jobs with Justice coalition in Cleveland.

Reverend Strommen has been a dedicated advocate for the working person's right to be treated with dignity and justice. He has set an example for us all with his tireless and energetic work in defense of workers' rights.

My fellow colleagues, please join with me on the occasion of his retirement in honoring the Rev. Robert T. Strommen for his dedication, faith, and commitment.

INTRODUCTION OF THE COMMUNITY
PROTECTION FROM FIREARMS
GIVEAWAYS ACT

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, last year, the House of Representatives failed to consider reasonable gun control and safety measures as part of legislation to combat crime. Despite the support of a majority of the House for reasonable measures, the Republican leadership has consistently refused to debate the numerous gun proposals introduced in the House.

Common sense gun control measures such as a three business day waiting period for background checks, closing the gun show loophole, requiring gun locks to be sold with firearms, and a ban on the importation of large capacity ammunition clips are all reasonable approaches to gun control and safety. However, more can and must be done.

That is why I am being joined by Representatives TOM CAMPBELL, GREG MEEKS, BARBARA LEE, NEIL ABERCROMBIE, ELIOT ENGEL, SHEILA JACKSON-LEE, GRACE NAPOLITANO, JAN SCHAKOWSKY and LOUIS GUTIERREZ in introducing bipartisan legislation, the "Community Protection from Firearms Giveaways Act," to close yet another dangerous loophole in Federal gun control laws.

As unbelievable as it may sound, our current gun control laws allow criminals to win guns at raffles without having to go through a criminal background check. This must be stopped.

Our legislation will amend U.S. law to require winners in a lottery where a firearm is the prize to pass a background check at a licensed gun dealership. The gun dealership may charge a reasonable fee as prescribed under current law for this service. Additionally, the Community Protection from Firearms Giveaways Act has a carve out exempting the background check if the lottery winner has a current gun owners permit, or if the check takes more than 5 business days.

Mr. Speaker, I believe we can all agree that giving away guns as prizes poses a serious danger to our communities. Requiring a background check on a lottery winner if a firearm is the prize is sensible and should be required under Federal law.

Our communities deserve to be protected from criminals with easy access to guns. While gun safety measures will not stop violent crime, it must be a key component of any anti-crime strategy addressed by Congress.