

radio professionals, and has won almost every honor in broadcasting, including the George Foster Peabody Award, the industry's most prestigious award.

Simply put, Jim has improved the quality of life for all of us in the community by treating us to WVXU's mix of vintage radio shows; award-winning news programs; financial information; and a beloved variety of music.

All of us congratulate Jim on his retirement and wish him luck in the new challenges to come.

HONORING JOSEPH HILLS AS VIRGINIA'S TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Joseph Hills, Virginia's 2005 Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Hills, a social studies teacher at Lake Braddock Secondary School, was named Virginia's 2005 Teacher of the Year and will represent Virginia in the National Teacher of the Year program. He was also awarded Fairfax County Public Schools 2004 Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Hills received a Bachelor of Science degree in Secondary Education from Lock Haven University in Lock Haven, Pennsylvania, and a Master of Arts degree in Education from the College of St. Thomas, Minnesota. He began his career with Fairfax County Public Schools in 1960 as a history teacher at Fairfax High School. He then moved to Marshall High School and later to Langley High School, where he worked as a teacher and social studies department chair. In 1973, Mr. Hills came to Lake Braddock Secondary School where he still serves.

He is a member of numerous education associations including the National Council of Social Studies, the Virginia Council of Social Studies, and is active in various Parent Teacher Associations. Mr. Hills has received the Washington Post Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award, as well as outstanding teacher awards from the University of Chicago and Smith College.

Colleagues describe Mr. Hills as "the embodiment of a dedicated teacher who is energized by his students and at the same time energizes those in his classroom." Former students praise Mr. Hills for making history come alive by telling stories and inspiring them to become teachers or earn graduate degrees in history. He is known for his use of the Socratic Method, spurring students to "think deeply and differently."

Our students are our number one resource. Mr. Hills has dedicated his life to ensuring that they are given the opportunity to achieve success. Over the past 44 years, he has made a lasting impact on thousands of students.

I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding Joseph Hills and congratulating him on this distinguished achievement.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF ANALOG DEVICES, INC.

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Analog Devices, Inc., ADI, a Fortune 1000 and S&P 500 Company with global headquarters in the 9th Congressional District, in the town of Norwood, MA, which will celebrate its 40th anniversary on January 18, 2005.

ADI, which is a world leader in the design, manufacture and marketing of semiconductors with a specialty in high-performance analog, mixed-signal and digital signal processing integrated circuits, was founded in 1965 in Cambridge, MA, by Ray Stata and Matthew Lorber, both graduates of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

During the intervening four decades, Analog Devices has grown to become the world's largest supplier of analog-to-digital and digital-to-analog data converters, and is the world's largest supplier of analog amplifiers, which are used in every conceivable manner of electronic communications, consumer, industrial, automotive, medical, military and aerospace product. The company today has manufacturing and/or technology design centers in 12 countries and 10 States, including Arizona, California, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oregon, Texas, Utah, and Washington.

ADI has played a significant role in the sustained development of Massachusetts as a world-class technology region and is a significant economic growth engine within the Massachusetts economy. Analog Devices is:

One of the 20 largest employers among Massachusetts' publicly traded companies;

Among the Top 20 companies in the State measured by annual revenue;

One of the Top 10 companies in the State measured by net earnings.

Mr. Speaker, I want to add my own personal congratulations to Analog Devices on the significant milestone of its 40th year and thank the company for the technological and economic contributions it has made to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and beyond.

INTRODUCING THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GROUNDWATER REMEDIATION ACT

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, today, I will be reintroducing the Southern California Groundwater Remediation Act. This legislation is a long-term solution to help cities in Southern California remove perchlorate from their drinking water.

Formerly H.R. 4606, this legislation passed the House of Representatives in September of 2004. Today, I pick up the fight to clean up

perchlorate groundwater contamination and protect the health of Southern Californians. Perchlorate groundwater contamination remains a crisis in Southern California. This includes my hometown of Rialto, California.

Perchlorate is a main ingredient in rocket fuel. It has been found in drinking water supplies in 40 states, including California. It has been linked to thyroid damage, and may be especially harmful to infants and developing fetuses, and the 1.2 million women of child-bearing age in San Bernardino, Riverside and Orange Counties. It could also be harmful to those with weak immune systems, such as seniors and AIDS patients.

There is a legal and moral obligation to provide safe and healthy water. Today, these obligations are in jeopardy. The hardworking families in these areas are not at fault and should not have to pay for this problem. We must protect these consumers.

Southern California, and particularly the Inland Empire, has been greatly impacted by perchlorate. Perchlorate has been detected in 184 sources in the counties served by the Santa Ana River watershed. There is a perchlorate plume in the Inland Empire in California that is seven miles long and growing every day. It has affected 82 wells in San Bernardino County, and jeopardized the water supplies of 500,000 residents who rely on the Colorado River.

The economic burden on these communities is almost as much of a concern as the potential health effects. The bill authorizes \$50 million in much-needed assistance. It is modeled after a successful program in the San Gabriel Basin in Southern California that has also suffered from perchlorate-polluted water. And it is similar to H.R. 4459, a bill introduced by Richard Pombo in the 108th Congress that deals with perchlorate in Northern California, and passed the House last September.

I urge my colleagues to support this urgent bill for Southern California, so we can tell these communities that help is on the way. I would like to thank Congresswoman GRACE NAPOLITANO, Congressman KEN CALVERT and Congressman GARY MILLER for their support of this crucial bill to the health of Southern Californians.

TRIBAL PARITY ACT

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Tribal Parity Act today. This bill would fully compensate the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe and the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe in South Dakota for the lands that they lost in the last century as a result of the federal government's construction of the massive dams on the main stem of the Missouri River.

The 1944 Flood Control Act cost these tribes much in terms of lost land. It also took an enormous toll on the people of both tribes and their economies. It is critically important that we seek to fully reimburse these tribes for the lands they lost.

The Lower Brule Sioux Tribe and the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe are both constituent bands

of the Great Sioux Nation. Both border on the Missouri River in central South Dakota and are connected by the Big Bend Dam.

Congress created a trust fund for the Crow Creek Sioux Tribe in 1996, and a separate trust fund for the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe in 1997. These trust funds sought to compensate the tribes for the value of their land that is now permanently inundated as a result of the construction of the Big Bend Dam. Unfortunately, the formula that the Government Accountability Office used to calculate amount of compensation for both tribes was substantially different than the formulas that it has used to calculate damages for many other similarly situated tribes. The result was unfair and inadequate compensation trust funds for these tribes.

Parity for these tribes would mean an ability to actively work for the betterment of their communities. It would mean adequate roads and improved community facilities. It would mean better health care and newer schools. It would mean attracting commercial business and improving the local economy. Most importantly, it would mean a real chance for these tribes to provide future generations with the tools that so many of us take for granted.

I would ask all of my distinguished colleagues to support the Tribal Parity Act and work with me to enact legislation that would fairly and appropriately compensate members of the Lower Brule and Crow Creek Sioux Tribes. I ask you to do it because of the tremendous positive difference it would make in the lives of those affected—and because it is the right and fair thing to do.

THE WORKER REEMPLOYMENT ACCOUNTS ACT OF 2005

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to sponsor the Worker Reemployment Accounts Act of 2005. This important legislation will help thousands of unemployed Americans seeking to return to work by providing them with a Personal Reemployment Account.

The American economy is the fastest growing economy of any industrialized nation in the world. Nationwide, more than 2.4 million jobs have been added since August 2003. The national unemployment rate has declined to 5.4 percent, lower than the average rate during the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s. In my own state of Nevada, unemployment has fallen to 3.7 percent. Clearly, the Republican tax relief and growth package has helped to drive the strong recovery in our economy. But we still have more work to do.

As the economy is adding thousands of new jobs and the unemployment rate is dropping across the country, the assistance provided by this bill is critical because we want to ensure that every job seeker has the resources they need to find a good job. That is what this bill is all about—helping Americans find careers.

As President Bush proposed in his 2005 budget, the Worker Reemployment Accounts Act permits the Secretary of Labor to use

demonstration funding under the Workforce Investment Act to provide Personal Reemployment Accounts to those with the greatest challenges in returning to work quickly.

Through competitive grants, the local One-Stop Career Center system, where the unemployed already seek assistance in obtaining employment, will offer this important new benefit to unemployed workers, in addition to an array of employment services they already provide.

Under the bill, states and local workforce investment areas will be able to offer unemployed individuals who are most in need of help a reemployment account of up to \$3,000. With these accounts, unemployed workers may purchase a variety of different services to help them find a good job, including job training, child care, transportation, housing assistance, short-term classes to upgrade skills, and employment counseling.

One of the important features of the bill is that it provides individuals with significant new flexibility to design a package of services tailored to meet their needs. By taking into account the needs of the unemployed on an individual basis, our local, State, and federal governments will better equip these individuals with the tools they require to secure long-term, meaningful employment.

In addition, recipients will be able to keep the balance of the account as a cash reemployment bonus if they become reemployed within 13 weeks and stay employed for six months.

These new Personal Reemployment Accounts and the current job training services already administered under the Workforce Investment Act are both essential in helping displaced workers in areas of the country facing skill shortages and enhancing the workforce for our increasingly knowledge-based economy.

The Secretary of Labor already has begun the process of testing the PRA concept through a very limited pilot program. However, the authority of this bill would allow the Secretary to test the concept in more areas, either within the seven states already participating or in additional states. The lessons learned through this demonstration program will help inform Congress regarding the best way to serve the unemployed and ultimately will result in better reemployment and training services for all workers.

Over the past two years, Republicans have taken numerous steps to help unemployed workers. I am also proud to join 21st Century Competitiveness Subcommittee Chairman MCKEON and Chairman BOEHNER of the Education and the Workforce Committee in introducing the Job Training Improvement Act of 2005. This bill will reauthorize and enhance the services provided through the Workforce Investment Act and the nation's one-stop deliver system for workforce development. I am pleased that the provisions of the Worker Reemployment Accounts Act are included in this broader reauthorization package.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to improve job training opportunities for all Americans and offer this new innovative option to help workers as quickly as possible. The choice and flexibility available through a Personal Reemployment Account is the additional

assistance American families need to get back into high-wage, steady employment. By providing this enhanced assistance, we can ensure that Americans are able to meet the challenges of the ever-changing economy that they face.

I was proud to see similar legislation pass in the House of Representatives in the 108th Congress, and am excited to see it become law in the 109th Congress. I urge my colleagues to support this critical legislation.

THE REINTRODUCTION OF THE 21ST CENTURY WATER COMMISSION ACT

HON. JOHN LINDER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 4, 2005

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, today I reintroduced my proposal, the "21st Century Water Commission Act." This proposal, which was approved by the House on November 21, 2003, but unfortunately not considered by the other body before the 108th Congress adjourned, will bring together our nation's premier water experts to recommend strategies for meeting our water challenges in the 21st century.

Some highlights of my 21st Century Water Commission legislation are as follows:

The commission will look for ways to ensure fresh water for U.S. citizens for the next 50 years;

The commission will be composed of nine members appointed by the President, and key leaders in the House and Senate;

The commission will look for ways to eliminate duplication and conflict among federal governmental agencies;

The commission will consider all available technologies and other methods to optimize water supply reliability, availability, and quality, while safeguarding the environment;

The commission will hold hearings in distinct geographical regions of the United States, and in Washington, D.C., to seek a diversity of views, comments, and input; and

A final report will be due within three years of the commission's inception. The report will include a detailed statement of the findings and conclusions of the commission, as well as recommendations for legislation and other policies.

I want to be clear that this bill does not give the federal government more direct authority or control over water. Rather, this commission will make recommendations on how we can coordinate water management efforts on all levels so that localities, states, and the Federal government can work together to enact a comprehensive water policy to avoid future water shortages.

As Benjamin Franklin noted in 1746, "When the well's dry, we know the worth of water." Nothing could be truer, and many states across the country that are currently facing a water crisis, or have in the last few years, understand the wisdom of these words.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House in moving this bill forward promptly. The U.S. cannot afford to reevaluate