

According to recent data and studies, balancing work and family is increasingly important to the strength of America's businesses today; 85 percent of United States wage and salaried workers have immediate, day-to-day family responsibilities outside of their jobs.

According to 2007 report by WorldatWork titled "Attraction and Retention: The Impact and Prevalence of Work-life and Benefit Programs", the quality of workers' jobs and the supportiveness of their workplaces are key predictors of job productivity, job satisfaction, commitment to employers, and retention.

Given the current economic crisis that is squeezing the family budget at a rate unprecedented since the Great Depression, from the escalating price of such basics as gasoline and food, at the same time housing values are declining, now more than ever it is essential to give working families some relief. Time is the new currency and has become as valuable a benefit as money. Research shows that workplace flexibility is the most highly prized response that employers can provide to 21st century workplace realities.

Workplace flexibility is not a trivial pursuit; it is a business imperative today. Corporations that engage in these family-supportive practices have earned 2-3 times the stock values, and creating a collegial, flexible work environment has been shown empirically to create a minimum of 9 percent of shareholder value.

No one is a pioneer; the path to flexibility is well-traveled, and best practices abound in all sectors—public as well as private. Many businesses are doing an exemplary job in this area already. H. Res. 1440 recognizes that the goal of National Work and Family Month is to encourage all employers to pause once a year in October, take stock of the progress that has been made to creating great places to work, and move the bar up one notch, thus setting a new goal for the year to come. This is the way progress is accomplished, one step at a time. Today we recognize the importance of setting aside this time.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO RICHARD PERKINS

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Richard Perkins.

Richard has dedicated his life to serving his fellow Nevadans and giving back to the Southern Nevada community. After growing up in Boulder City and Henderson, Richard graduated from Basic High School and subsequently the University of Nevada, Las Vegas with degrees in Criminal Justice and Political Science. Following his graduation from UNLV, Richard began a long and illustrious career with the Henderson Police Department in 1984. He has served as the Chief of Police for the Henderson Police Department since 2006.

In addition to Richard's dedicated service as a police officer and first responder, he admirably served in the Nevada State Legislature for a number of years. In 1993, Richard was first elected to the Nevada Assembly and

served for five subsequent regular sessions. During his time in the legislature, Richard distinguished himself, becoming the Democratic Floor Leader in 1995, the Chairman of the Legislative Commission from 1997-1998, and the Majority Floor Leader from 1997-1999. He served as the Speaker of the Nevada State Assembly in 2001.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor my good friend, Richard Perkins. Richard's tireless dedication to his fellow Nevadans and the Southern Nevada community are admirable and should serve as an example of a life dedicated to service. I thank Richard for his efforts, and wish him the best in his retirement and all his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF DERON MICHAEL WILLIAMS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of U.S.A. Olympic Team member Deron Michael Williams for his contribution to the U.S. men's basketball team in the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, China.

Deron Michael Williams was born on June 26, 1984 in Parkersburg, WV and later moved to Texas with his mother, who planted a love for basketball inside him. Deron's success began when he played as a point guard for the Colony High School Cougars. His passion for basketball paid off and he was recruited by the University of Illinois. Deron gained national attention when he helped get his team to the National Championships, and was named one of the Big Ten's Best Players.

Deron was also awarded the position of third pick by the Utah Jazz in the NBA draft. His intensity and drive revitalized the Jazz and brought renewed energy to the team, and he was awarded the NBA Skills Champion title earlier this year. Deron's hard work led him to the U.S.A. Olympic Team, where he and his teammates brought home the gold.

Deron's role on the U.S.A. Olympic Basketball Team helped bring positive attention to America, and with his team, helped contribute to the spirit of the Olympics. As a Member of Congress, I am proud to stand before you today and boast of the accomplishments of a man like Deron Williams, whose professional accomplishments began in my own district as the point guard for the Colony Cougars. Deron, thank you for your unselfish dedication both on and off the court and for your role in representing America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I would like to offer a personal explanation of the reason I missed rollcall votes 637-644 on

September 25, 2008. I was in my congressional district attending a funeral for a fallen service member.

I respectfully request that it be entered into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD that if present, I would have voted rollcall vote No. 637, On Ordering the Previous Question, H. Res. 1490, "nay"; rollcall vote No. 638, On Agreeing to the Resolution, H. Res. 1490, "nay"; rollcall vote No. 639, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 758, "aye"; rollcall vote No. 640, On Ordering the Previous Question, H. Res. 1501, "nay"; rollcall vote No. 641, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H. Con. Res. 255, "aye"; rollcall vote No. 642, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, H.R. 1014, "aye"; rollcall vote No. 643, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, H.R. 6950, "aye"; rollcall vote No. 644, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree, as Amended, H. Res. 1421, "aye."

IN HONOR OF TAIWAN'S NATIONAL DAY

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. RAMSTAD. Madam Speaker, I rise today as a proud member of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus to congratulate Taiwan on its 97th National Day on October 10.

The people of Taiwan have many reasons to celebrate and be proud of their country. Having elected President Ma Ying-jeou, the Taiwanese have returned the KMT party back to power, thereby effectively passing Huntington's "two-turnover test of democratic consolidation." By successfully transitioning from one party to another and back to the original party, the people of Taiwan have proven their democracy is flourishing.

Today, Taiwan is a vibrant democracy with a strong market economy thanks to its strong ties with the United States. Under the new Ma administration, Taiwan will only seek to fortify these ties and continue to prosper as a nation.

Madam Speaker, I would also be remiss if I didn't take this opportunity to push for the 111th Congress to pass a Free Trade Agreement with Taiwan. Taiwan is the United States' ninth largest trading partner, with trade flows between the two totaling \$64.6 billion last year. A Free Trade Agreement expand trade and improve economic growth, provide enhanced opportunities for U.S. businesses and support an important democratic ally in a strategic region. It is time we put our differences aside and pass this legislation which is long overdue.

COMMENDING THE AMERICAN LEGION POST 490 AND LADIES AUXILIARY UNIT 490

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 26, 2008

Mr. LAMPSON. Madam Speaker, I am privileged to recognize American Legion Post 490