

SENSE OF HOUSE ESTABLISHING A  
NATIONAL LETTER CARRIERS  
APPRECIATION DAY

SPEECH OF

**HON. HEATH SHULER**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 29, 2008*

Mr. SHULER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in favor of H. Res. 49, supporting the establishment of a National Letter Carriers Appreciation Day.

As the son of a rural letter carrier, I understand the hard work and sacrifice of our nation's letter carriers. Letter carriers deliver billions of pieces of mail to millions of homes and businesses each year. Working six days a week, letter carriers fulfill a great need in this country.

Inscribed at the New York City General Post Office is the United States Postal Services' unofficial motto: "Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds."

Our nation's letter carriers are entrusted to carry out a vital service, and they do so with dignity. Many carriers, like my father, serve the same communities for their entire career. These carriers develop invaluable relationships with their customers and become an important part of their community.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting the establishment of a National Letter Carriers Appreciation Day.

IN HONOR OF ELEANOR GELFAND

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 5, 2008*

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Eleanor Gelfand as she and her family celebrate her 90th birthday.

Eleanor Gelfand, the daughter of immigrants from Hungary, was born in Cleveland, Ohio, on May 2, 1918. She grew up along with her two siblings in the Glenville neighborhood of Cleveland during the great depression. Her parents, Zigmund and Mary Adler, worked as a union baker and a homemaker and were active in the Glenville community. Their activism and ability to work with fellow community members on social issues during a time of economic strife instilled a strong sense of social consciousness in their young children.

Mrs. Gelfand attended Glenville High School and later went on to earn her degree in cosmetology, becoming a licensed beautician. She continued to work in local salons until World War II. Shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor, she married Ernest Gelfand who was drafted into the Navy after U.S. involvement in the war. Mrs. Gelfand left her career as a beautician and began working at the Fisher Body plant in Cleveland making airplanes for the war. Shortly after her husband returned from serving his country in the war, they started a family and she stayed home to raise their 3 children. In 1969, she returned to her first career in cosmetology, where she would continue to work until her retirement in 1980. She and her husband were active together in the

Jewish War Veterans Post 44. She continues to work closely with them by raising money to help other veterans in the community. Just as her parents instilled strong values of social activism in her, she too continues to serve as an example to her 3 children, 6 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor of Eleanor Gelfand as she celebrates her 90th birthday party. May her story and continued activism in the Greater Cleveland community serve as an example for all of us to follow.

COMMEMORATING THE 93RD ANNI-  
VERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN  
GENOCIDE**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 5, 2008*

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the survivors of the Armenian Genocide and their descendants. This year marks the 93rd anniversary of the Armenian Genocide.

The genocide of the Armenian people by the Ottoman Empire during World War I represents a major tragedy of the modern age. Carried out between 1915 and 1923, the Armenian Genocide was a systematic and deliberate campaign by the Turkish Ottoman Empire to destroy its Armenian minority. While there is no consensus as to how many Armenians lost their lives, there is general agreement among western scholars that between 500,000 and 1,500,000 Armenians died and that nearly all Armenians were exiled from their homeland.

The date of the onset of the genocide is conventionally held to be April 24, 1915, the day that Ottoman authorities arrested some 250 Armenian intellectuals and community leaders in Istanbul. These Armenian political, religious, educational, and intellectual leaders were arrested, deported, and mercilessly put to death. Over the next few years, many Armenians were murdered outright or were deported via forced marches under such agonizing conditions that they died from exhaustion or starvation before they reached their destination.

At that time, the word "genocide" had not yet been coined. Nonetheless, many governments decried the mass murder of the Armenians as extermination of a people, a crime against humanity, and the murder of a nation.

We must honor the truth of the past because denial makes it more likely that genocide will happen again. We must recognize and condemn the atrocities that took place against the Armenian people. The time has come to pass the Armenian Genocide Resolution. I urge my colleagues to support this important piece of legislation and give the Armenian people the respect and recognition they deserve.

KOREAN FREE TRADE  
AGREEMENT**HON. DAVID G. REICHERT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 5, 2008*

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I am proud to represent the Eighth District of Washington State, which is the most trade dependent state in the Nation. We have a growing and vibrant economy based on technology and small business. Opening new global markets gives these businesses incentives to improve their products, produce more goods, and ultimately employ more American workers.

The Korean Free Trade Agreement will benefit Washington State. We cannot afford to lose South Korea as a trade partner; in Washington State, one in three jobs relies on trade. In these uncertain economic times, we need to open markets, not reduce them. Congress must act now to preserve our trade relations and preserve American jobs. I respectfully submit the following article from the Seattle Times for the record:

[From the Seattle Times]

KOREAN FREE-TRADE PACT IMPORTANT FOR  
WASHINGTON

(By Kathleen Connors)

Two years ago, government and business leaders from across the state welcomed U.S. and Korean officials to Seattle for a week of trade negotiations. Seattle was chosen for a reason: Washington is the most trade-dependent state in the country, and there are already strong ties between Washington state and Korea.

The U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement is now signed and awaits congressional consideration. Last week, President Bush welcomed to Washington, D.C., for the first time, newly elected South Korean President Lee Myung-bak, who brought with him an important present: an agreement to fully reopen the Korean market to U.S. beef.

South Korea had been the third-largest export market for U.S. beef until 2003, when U.S. producers were effectively shut out of the market. Washington state exported \$50 million of beef products to Korea that year, so the resumption of exports beginning in May will be a welcome boon to local producers.

Lee's visit comes at a time when American trade policy is again at a crossroads. Our continued ability to open foreign markets and expand trade opportunities through trade agreements is seriously at risk.

There has been a long debate about the impact of trade on America's economy. Despite political challenges, presidents of both parties—supported by Congress—have consistently promoted trade.

Despite 95 percent of America's potential customers being outside our borders, the era of trade cooperation may be over. Trade has become a presidential campaign issue, with candidates suggesting they would consider pulling the United States out of the North American Free Trade Agreement. And congressional leaders are threatening to defeat all pending trade agreements, including agreements with Colombia, Panama and Korea.

Does the Korea agreement matter? It does for Washington state. The Korea agreement is part of a broader Asia-Pacific strategy for Washington, and Asian nations welcome their relationship with the state. In 2007, Korea was Washington's fifth-largest export

market. The U.S.-Korea FTA would allow nearly 95 percent of U.S. consumer and industrial exports to become duty free within the first three years of the agreement, and two-thirds of U.S. agricultural products will become duty free immediately.

Microsoft and Washington's many high-tech companies will benefit from Korea's eliminating duties on all products in this sector, as well as Korea's commitment to treat digital products equally regardless of whether they are transmitted in physical form or electronically. The agreement locks in and improves an open trade regime for technology-related services, such as telecommunications, computer and related services, and audiovisual and recreational services. It also strengthens protections for intellectual property by deterring piracy and unauthorized sharing of music, video, software and other content over the Internet.

Korea is a long-term customer for Boeing. In April 2005, Korean Air placed an order for up to 20 Boeing 787 Dreamliners in a deal worth approximately \$2.6 billion at list prices.

For Starbucks, this agreement will reverse a very bad trend. Coffee exporters had been excluded from previous trade agreements, including NAFTA and the Central American Free Trade Agreement. Under the Korea agreement, the bound tariff of nearly 30 percent will go immediately to zero.

Many of these products will be shipped through the ports of Seattle and Tacoma, which already benefit from strong relationships with Korean shippers Hanjin and Hyundai.

But it's not just large businesses and their workers that will benefit. In 2005, 89 percent of U.S. companies exporting to Korea were small or medium-sized. Washington beneficiaries include companies like Kaiser Aluminum in Spokane, and Trinity Glass International in Tacoma.

For Washington's farmers, the current 24-percent tariff on cherries would be immediately eliminated in the industry's top overseas growth market. The state's wine producers would finally have a fair chance to compete for Korean consumers. And Washington potato growers would immediately benefit from an 18-percent tariff reduction in a market that generated \$23 million in sales in 2006.

So what's next? This agreement will not pass without our active support. And we simply cannot take for granted the votes of our congressional delegation. Those who oppose trade have consistently been louder and more organized. And now they use a stagnant economy as their latest argument for voting down any trade agreement, despite export figures being the bright spot in our current economic data.

Washington state knows better. This agreement will have clear benefits for our region. But we must overcome a tough political season and an effective opposition to make this agreement a reality.

For Washington state, the agreement is a clear winner.

IN HONOR OF THE U.S. CHAMPION  
MOORPARK HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMIC  
DECATHLON TEAM

### HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 5, 2008*

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Moorpark High School Academic Decathlon Team as the United States Academic Decathlon Champions.

This is the third time in 9 years that Moorpark High School's team has won this premier scholastic contest. Prior to its win in 1999, no team from Ventura County, California, had even competed in the nationals.

This year's team made history, scoring 53,119 points, the highest ever scored in the decathlon's 40-year history. In winning the national title, the Moorpark team broke the record it set as California champions by 240 points.

Team members Angela Chen, Jonah Buck, Christie Calle, Colin Calle, Anaamika Campeau, Justine Levan, Chrissa Rutkai, Kris Sankaran, and Paul Watanabe are now recognized as the best and the brightest in the country. They are the pride of their school, their community and their country.

These youngsters won by literally dedicating their lives to the challenge. For 9 months they put in up to 40 hours a week beyond their school days to study and hone their skills. They gave up weekends, vacations, part-time jobs, and time with their families.

Their hard work paid off. Moorpark came home with more medals than any of the other 41 teams from throughout the country, including 36 for individual subjects.

Special honors go to Colin Calle, the top-scoring varsity student; Chrissa Rutkai, top scorer in the scholastic division; and Kris Sankaran, the second-highest individual scorer in the honors division.

Their coach, Larry Jones, worked as hard, if not harder, than his students and is as deserving of high praise. Coach Jones has coached all three U.S. Championship teams. He is a man of outstanding strength, patience, and perseverance.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in applauding nine outstanding students who made history while achieving a very prestigious goal—Angela Chen, Jonah Buck, Christie Calle, Colin Calle, Anaamika Campeau, Justine Levan, Chrissa Rutkai, Kris Sankaran, and Paul Watanabe—the 2008 U.S. Champion Moorpark High School Academic Decathlon Team.

### WORKERS MEMORIAL DAY

### HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 5, 2008*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, April 28, 2008, was Workers Memorial Day. The day is dedicated to remembering those who have lost their lives or have been injured as a result of unsafe health and safety conditions. However, it is also a day for us to recommit to the fight for safer working conditions for all who go to work every day.

On April 23, 2008, the Workforce Protections Subcommittee, which I chair, held a hearing on strengthening OSHA enforcement at companies with multistate facilities. Specifically, we examined the tragedies that have occurred at the Cintas industrial plants across the country and focused on the heartbreaking and preventable death of Eleazar Torres-Gomez, a 46-year-old washroom employee in Cintas's Tulsa, Oklahoma plant. His son, Emmanuel Torres, testified at the hearing about his father and his senseless death.

OSHA has fined Cintas \$2.78 million for the tragedy in Tulsa, the largest OSHA fine ever

assessed in the service sector. And Cintas has also been cited by OSHA for hazards at a handful of their other facilities in Columbus, Ohio, Central Islip, New York, and Mobile, Alabama.

However, as Randy Rabinowitz, one of our witnesses, testified, OSHA fails to address these hazards on a "company-wide" basis. In addition, she said that: "these large companies have the organizational resources to make health and safety improvements." Sadly, many companies choose not to make such improvements.

What we discovered at the hearing is that Cintas as a company has failed to address deadly hazards that it was aware of, and OSHA has failed to adequately enforce safe working conditions beyond the facility level until after a terrible tragedy occurs.

The subcommittee will be following up our hearing with actions to ensure that no other families have to go through what the Torres-Gomez family did. We must end these tragic and preventable accidents.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 5, 2008*

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, I regrettably missed a number of votes to attend to a family emergency. Had I been present for these votes I would have voted as follows:

On rollcall No. 224, Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 1079, I would have voted "yea".

On rollcall No. 225, Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H.R. 4332, I would have voted "yea."

On rollcall No. 226, Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to S. 2739, I would have voted "yea."

On rollcall No. 227, Ordering the Previous Question for H.R. 5522, the Combustible Dust Explosion and Fire Prevention Act, I would have voted "yea."

On rollcall No. 228, Providing for the consideration of H.R. 5522, the Combustible Dust Explosion and Fire Prevention Act, I would have voted "yea."

On rollcall No. 229, Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to the Senate Amendment to the SAFETEA-LU Technical Corrections Act, I would have voted "yea."

On rollcall No. 230, the George Miller of California Amendment, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall No. 231, the Wilson of South Carolina Substitute Amendment, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall No. 238, the Flake Motion to Instruct Conferees, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall No. 239, to Suspend Rules and Agree to Senate Amendments, I would have voted "yea."

### CINCO DE MAYO

### HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 5, 2008*

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Cinco de Mayo, a date which is