

learn," Trey says. His commitment to his students extends beyond the classroom, as evidenced by his leadership roles at the school and system level. Trey is acting principal when Stewart's Creek Elementary School Principal Richard Zago is absent.

Congratulations, again, Trey. To impart a love of learning to children at this formative stage in their life is a gift they will carry with them and always prosper from.

HONORING ADMIRAL ROBERT E. PEARY

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. MURTHA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge a great American and extraordinary explorer, Admiral Robert Edwin Peary, and the one hundredth anniversary of his expedition to the North Pole.

Peary was born on May 6, 1856 in Cresson, Pennsylvania. He graduated from Bowdoin College and joined the United States Navy in 1881. Peary made several expeditions throughout the Arctic, including Greenland, during this lifetime.

On April 6, 1909 Peary concluded his journey to the North Pole. He was accompanied by his longtime companion Matthew Henson and four Inuit men.

Throughout his life, he received many awards, honors, and honorary degrees. In 1911 Peary retired from the Navy with the rank of Rear Admiral. He died on February 20, 1920 in Washington, DC.

Madam Speaker, at this time in history when the North Pole is so important to geopolitics, I hope that our nation will reflect on the hundredth anniversary of Admiral Peary's great accomplishment.

INTRODUCING THE MAKE COLLEGE AFFORDABLE ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise to help millions of Americans afford higher education by introducing the Make College Affordable Act of 2009, which makes college tuition tax deductible. Today the average cost of education at a state university is \$12,796 per year, and the cost of education at a private university is \$30,367 per year. These high costs have left many middle-class American families struggling to afford college for their children, who are often ineligible for financial aid. Therefore, middle-class students have no choice but to obtain student loans, and thus leave college saddled with massive debt.

Even families who plan and save well in advance for their children's education may have a difficult time because their savings are eroded by taxation and inflation. The Make College Affordable Act will help these middle-class students by allowing them, or their parents or

guardians who claim them as dependents, to deduct the cost of college tuition as well as the cost of student loan repayments.

The Make College Affordable Act will also help older or nontraditional students looking to improve their job skills or prepare for a career change, by pursuing higher education. In today's economy, the average American worker can expect to change jobs, and even careers, several times during his or her working life, making it more important than ever that working Americans be able to devote their resources to continuing their educations.

Helping the American people use their own money to ensure every qualified American can receive a college education is one of the best investments this Congress can make in the future. I therefore urge my colleagues to help strengthen America by ensuring more Americans can obtain college educations by co-sponsoring the Make College Affordable Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was unable to participate in a series of votes on the floor of the House of Representatives today.

Had I been present to vote on rollcall No. 180, a Bean (IL)/McMahon (NY) Amendment to H.R. 1664, a bill to amend the executive compensation provisions of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008, I would have voted "nay" on the question.

Had I been present to vote on rollcall No. 181, a Dahlkemper (PA) Amendment to H.R. 1664, I would have voted "aye" on the question.

Had I been present to vote on rollcall No. 182, final passage of H.R. 1664, I would have voted "aye" on the question.

THE PATRIOT CORPORATIONS OF AMERICA ACT: INVESTING IN AMERICA

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 2, 2009

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, today we find ourselves in the grips of recession. As of this morning there were 5.7 million Americans without a job and we should be doing everything in our power to save jobs—and create new ones.

Today, I am introducing the Patriot Corporations of America Act, which encourages corporations to invest in the American people and the American economy. In this time of change we should lift the spirit of patriotism and create a new corporate ethic in America—one that unites workers and their employers in the mutual goal of building a stronger, more prosperous business that will contribute to a stronger, more prosperous America.

Since the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, we have benefited from the

great work and contributions of countless American patriots and Congress has always undertaken efforts to honor those men and women. The Patriot Corporations of America Act continues that tradition by rewarding companies that commit to America and American workers.

It angers Americans, and it angers me, when companies outsource jobs and relocate to avoid giving back to the country that afforded them the opportunity to succeed. Companies that continue to send American jobs abroad during these difficult times should not receive the same benefits as companies who are keeping jobs right here. It is time for the United States to reward companies that show a dedication to the American workforce.

The Patriot Corporation Act will move us along the path to recovery, while simultaneously giving a hand-up to "patriotic" companies that are struggling in the midst of a recession.

Bill Edley, a former State Representative in Illinois, and political scientist Robin Johnson of Monmouth College, introduced a new idea of turning the tables around with the Patriot Corporations of America Act. It would reward companies, like New Maryland Clothing and Tama Manufacturing, that care about our Nation, our communities, and American workers. I am honored to be introducing this commonsense concept in the form of legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives.

In exchange for preferential treatment in government contracting and a 5% tax rate reduction, Patriot Corporations would be asked to pledge their allegiance to our country by producing at least 90% of their goods and doing at least 50% of their research and development in the United States. They would limit top managements' compensation to no greater than 100 times that of their lowest-compensated full-time workers. They would show their commitment to their workers by contributing at least 5% of payroll to portable pension funds and by paying for at least 70% of the cost of health insurance plans. Finally, Patriot Corporations would simply be required to comply with existing federal regulations regarding the environment, workplace safety, consumer protections and labor relations, including maintaining neutrality in employee organizing drives.

Mr. Speaker, the Patriot Corporations for America Act would be revenue neutral. It would be paid for by closing corporate offshoring loopholes that have been exploited and, if necessary, reining in some of the new tax breaks for millionaires.

Patriot Corporations would create a new class of companies committed to uphold the dignity and prosperity of American workers as well as to selling their goods on the American market and around the world.

Patriot Corporations are an expression of the American spirit of our fore fathers and mothers when they took that brave step of declaring our independence and creating the United States of America.

I'm confident that between the Recovery Act and legislation like the Patriots Corporation Act—America will emerge stronger from this recession.

I am honored to be introducing this bill today and I encourage my colleagues to join me in saluting American businesses and workers.