

through an apprenticeship program to become a skilled tradesman.

Mr. Speaker, the details of his life do not paint the full picture of the personality and influence that Dave Peterson brought to bear in the Kansas City metropolitan area. As Kevin O'Neill, the publisher of the Labor Beacon said in his paper's obituary concerning Dave: "Whenever I thought of Dave Peterson, I thought of passion. The man was full of passion. That is what made him a great leader. That is what made him a great man." As Garry Kemp, Business Manager for the Greater Kansas City Building Trades said, in the same article, "All who knew him will acknowledge that he wasn't bashful whenever he spoke, publicly or privately, regarding the working people and their equal rights to obtain an economically fair and just livelihood from the services rendered." Dave Peterson was a friend, neighbor and advisor of mine. His enthusiasm, integrity and dedication to the public interest will be sorely missed by all of us in public service in the Kansas City metro area. I echo the sentiments expressed on the Kansas Democratic Party's Web site concerning the passing of Dave Peterson: "Dave was a well-reasoned and common sense advisor to government and business leaders across the state. He was an active, passionate and vocal Democrat who never hesitated to tell anyone how he felt, and that he was proud to be a Democrat. Dave's leadership and dedication will be missed."

While Dave and I did not agree on every policy issue that came before Congress, I respected his counsel and welcomed his advice. Our community is richer for his having been among us and we are poorer today because we have lost him. Mr. Speaker, I include with this statement the obituary regarding Dave Peterson that was published in the Kansas City Star:

DAVE PETERSON, PRESIDENT OF UAW LOCAL,
DIES AT 54

[From the Kansas City Star, Mar. 23, 2006]

(By Randolph Heaster)

Dave Peterson, a prominent local union leader, died Monday. He was 54.

Peterson became president of United Auto Workers Local 31 in 2002 and served as its recording secretary before that. He was also president of the AFL-CIO Tri-County Labor Council of Eastern Kansas.

Peterson's activism on behalf of causes supported by organized labor was well known among community and civic leaders. He and Local 31, which represents workers at the General Motors Fairfax assembly plant, also were active in United Way fundraising in Wyandotte County.

He put Local 31 on the map in the political arena and in the labor movement in general, said Jeff Manning, Local 31 vice president. He touched a lot of people, and he was always involved in charitable causes.

Peterson was one of the principal organizers of last year's Labor Day parade, the first in Kansas City in 13 years. He thought such a tradition was sorely needed to reinvigorate a labor movement that was still recovering from the setbacks of the 2004 elections.

We're looking for something to rally around, he said at the time. If we don't come together and show some solidarity, we're all going to wind up losing.

Peterson regularly attended a monthly breakfast meeting between union officials and local media members. That was where Gordon Clark said he got to know Peterson

better and began working with him on various issues.

Dave was one of the best labor leaders that I've known, and I've looked up to him the last few years for guidance and leadership, said Clark, president of Transport Workers Union Local 530, which represents American Airlines workers. I was proud to know him. Clark said Peterson was quick to volunteer his time for training or teaching forums on matters affecting organized labor.

He always made the Local 31 union hall available for whoever needed a bigger space, Clark said.

Peterson worked at the Fairfax plant for 30 years. He survived a 21-month layoff when GM eliminated a second shift in the early 1980s. Peterson was president when GM decided to invest \$500 million in the Fairfax plant to build the new Chevrolet Malibu. With a new Saturn passenger car also expected to come on line this year, the Fairfax plant survived GM's decision last fall to close several plants in an effort to become profitable.

After years of suffering through temporary shutdowns from slow sales in the 1980s and 1990s, the Fairfax plant's 3,000 employees have had steady work and overtime since the Malibu's introduction three years ago. But Peterson continued to warn the public about the trend among U.S. corporations to eliminate high-paying domestic jobs and opening plants in countries with cheap labor.

He was definitely a working man's friend, Manning said. If you worked hard, he believed you should be rewarded for that. He will be greatly missed.

ACCELERATING THE CREATION OF TEACHERS OF INFLUENCE FOR OUR NATION (ACTION) ACT

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the Accelerating the Creation of Teachers of Influence for Our Nation (ACTION) Act, a bill that creates highly qualified science, technology, engineering, and mathematics teachers for elementary and secondary classrooms across America.

The ACTION Act has two separate pieces. Through the scholarship portion we create teachers with a science, technology, engineering, and mathematics degree with teacher certification to raise scientific literacy and teach critical thinking, two necessary skills for our citizenry in the 21st century. Each student receiving this scholarship would have a teaching service requirement and if it is not fulfilled the scholarship reverts to a student loan. Students can also obtain their Masters in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, or education.

The competitive renewal university grants encourage universities or a consortium of universities to create these programs, thus augmenting the pool of potential institutions for these scholarship recipients to attend.

Recently Maine declared that they are retiring more science and mathematics teachers than are being produced by colleges and universities. The National Science Board Science and Engineering Indicators 2006 states that "out-of-field teaching (as measured by either lacking a certificate or a college major or minor in the assigned teaching) field is com-

mon. A maximum of twenty-eight percent of high school mathematics and science teachers lacked full certification in their teaching field in academic 2002."

As the global economy of the 21st century unfolds, scientific and engineering occupations are expected to continue to grow more rapidly than occupations in general. Out future workforce must be literate and fluent in both the technical and the scientific arenas. The decisions facing our Nation will also require these skills, as we move into uncharted waters with such topics as STEM cell research, nanotechnology, high-tech manufacturing, aerospace engineering, and biotechnology. Right now our 15-year-old students score below the international average on the Program for International Student Assessment which measures students' abilities to apply scientific and mathematical concepts and skills.

It is time to take action and make changes necessary for the future of our Nation, and move the ACTION Act forward.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ST. ROSE HOSPITAL-SAN MARTIN CAMPUS

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the St. Rose Hospital and their team of dedicated professionals who are committed to providing compassionate, high-quality, affordable health services. Moreover, St. Rose Hospital has a proud history of service to the communities of Nevada.

It is the principal goal of St. Rose Hospital to provide a health care ministry distinguished by excellent quality and committed to expanding access to medical care to deprived individuals. This mission is complemented by numerous community outreach programs, sponsored by the hospital, designed to assist those in need and improve the quality of life. Furthermore, St. Rose Hospital has a strong tradition of establishing programs to assist eligible uninsured patients gain access to government funded insurance programs, advancing their goal to help those individuals' access preventative and ongoing care beyond an emergency or acute health care need.

St. Rose Hospital is dedicated to promoting the wholeness of body, mind and spirit in the Dominican tradition of working with others to improve the health status of the community, and does so by providing premium health care services through team work and innovation. Their professional staff members reach out to patients, their families, and those in need outside of the hospitals, while their services focus on the healing concept of physical restoration of the body and the healing of the mind and soul.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize St. Rose Hospital on the floor of the House today. I commend them for their efforts to provide high-quality health care and improve the quality of life of the community, and I wish them the best in continuing their mission.