

Development Program [RC&D] whose efforts have improved the economy, the environment, and the living standards of this Nation. I would like to designate September 15, 1996, as a day of recognition for the Resource Conservation and Development Program. The RC&D, initiated in 1962, serves 2,016 counties in more than half of the United States, the Caribbean, and the Pacific Basin. The 20,000 volunteers involved in the organization's projects contribute their time and resources to revitalize and sustain their communities.

The comprehensive efforts of the RC&D have focused on protecting the environment and fortifying the economy of this Nation. The program's resource protection initiative has improved 40,264 acres of wildlife habitat, and has increased the quality of water in 56,052 acres of lakes and 2,523 miles of streams. Furthermore, RC&D council and partners have added to the economy by creating 164 new businesses, resulting in 3,209 jobs. Their educational projects have helped 82,878 people develop new skills in areas of development, entrepreneurial training, and resource assessment. From saving the environment to creating jobs, the RC&D has touched the lives of all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, we all owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to the RC&D for their dedication and service to this country. Their accomplishments illustrate the power and strength of volunteer organizations in this Nation. I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring the Resource Conservation and Development Program on this day.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. FRANK RIGGS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 12, 1996

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No.'s 407, 408, 409, 410, and 411 I would have voted "yes," and on rollcall No. 412 I would have voted "no." Unfortunately, I was not present due to a physical ailment and subsequently requested an official leave of absence for the day which was granted.

HAPPY 50TH VFW POST 8275

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 12, 1996

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, September 15, 1946, a group of young men gathered in a community hall in Au Gres, MI. They had a common bond, all having served our country in the Army, Navy, Air Force, or Marines. To preserve the pride in and service to their country, they formed VFW Post 8275.

Fifty years later the illustrious post, under the capable leadership of Commander James A. Armour, boasts 209 members and the Women's Auxiliary, under the leadership of Marion Maytas boasts 60 members. I congratulate VFW Post 8275 on its 50th anniversary and commend their dedication to their country, community, and family.

In 1946, department commander Arthur Greig installed 21 officers and members. They

named VFW 8275 Post in honor of three young heroes who paid the supreme sacrifice: John Rudolph, age 32, Leonard George Frank, age 23, and Harry Leroy Beauch, age 19.

Because they did not have a post headquarters, they held meetings in various places including a school basement, a fire hall, and a council hall. The deficiency of a permanent base did not discourage or diminish the strength and tenacity of its members. By January 1948, under the leadership of Wilbur Lake, the Post purchased a building on South Mackinaw—near where the present Au Gres Fire Department building is today—for \$300.

Proving the strength and dedication of its families, the Women's Auxiliary to 8275 was founded and installed on February 12, 1950.

Over the next 12 years, the post thrived and grew under the leadership of many capable leaders including, Commander Hubert Dewald. However, the years took its toll on the post home. Under the leadership of Commander Joseph Czapski the members considered moving to larger facilities to accommodate their growing membership. In January 1963, the city of Au Gres offered the VFW Post 8275 a 50 foot lot on Main Street with a 100-year lease. Robert Conell and Daisy Gess offered free property, which consisted of approximately 8 acres, 2 miles north of Au Gres on U.S. Highway 23. A deed to the property was presented and accepted at the March 8, 1963 meeting.

With Archie McCready in command, \$812.50 in the bank, another \$800 from the sale of the old building and \$1,575 raised by post member Calvin Ennes, they had a small amount to begin construction and care for the property in April 1963. The post appointed Clem "Whitey" Bensen as building chairman and appointed Lincoln Emes as financial chairman. Donations of money, material, and labor began pouring in to support the post. The final meeting in the old post home was on May 5, 1963.

The first meeting in the new post home took place on September 13, 1963. Since the building was yet a long way from completion, members were content to have planks for seats and sand for the floor. They decided to borrow \$10,000 to complete the building and by May 30, 1964 they held a dedication and ground breaking. They held a 3-day "Burning the Mortgage" celebration in April 1971 and an addition was added in September 1973.

Today the post continues its community involvement including hosting bingo tournaments, dinners, and teenage parties. The members of our VFW post prove that the strength of our country depends, thrives, and grows because of the individuals who served our country and continue to serve long after formal commitment.

Mr. Speaker, I commend these dedicated individuals. I urge you and all of our colleagues to join me in wishing the members of VFW Post 8275 a most memorable 50th anniversary, with our thanks for all that they have done.

THANK YOU, HARRY F. BURROUGHS III, FOR YOUR LOYAL SERVICE

HON. JACK FIELDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 12, 1996

Mr. FIELDS. Mr. Speaker, it was with mixed emotions that I announced last December 11, my decision to retire from the House at the conclusion of my current term. As I explained at the time, the decision to retire was made more difficult because of the loyalty and dedication of my staff, both past and present, and because of the genuine friendship I feel for them. Each one of them has served the men and women of Texas' Eighth Congressional District in an extraordinary way.

Today, I want to thank a former member of my staff—Harry F. Burroughs III, who worked for me in a variety of capacities for 14 years—for all he's done for me and my constituents over the years.

Harry served as my legislative director from 1981 to 1985—the same position he held for our former colleague, Richard Schulze of Pennsylvania from 1977 to 1980. During my critical first two terms in the House, I relied on Harry's experience, advice, and expertise on a host of issues and legislative business.

Beginning in 1985, Harry served as my Counsel on the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee—a committee critical to the economic well-being of my district. When local residents asked me to work with the Army Corps of Engineers to devise a flood control plan for the Upper White Oak Bayou and Buffalo Bayou; when funds were needed to widen and deepen the Houston Ship Channel; and when Federal assistance was needed to solve a serious water pollution problem in Lake Houston, I turned to Harry to make sure that these urgent proposals moved forward.

With the start of the 103rd Congress, I was privileged to serve as the ranking minority member of the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee—and, naturally, I asked Harry to serve as the committee's minority staff director.

As my right arm on the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee, Harry played a crucial role in enacting into law the African Elephant conservation Act of 1988; the Oil Pollution Act of 1990; the Abandoned Barge Act of 1992; the Rhino and Tiger Conservation Act of 1994; and other legislation designed to protect our Nation's marine environment, strengthen our Nation's merchant fleet, and maintain our country's vital commercial waterways.

With the unfortunate abolition of the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee in the current 104th Congress, our colleague, DON YOUNG of Alaska, chairman of the Natural Resources Committee, asked Harry to serve as the staff director of the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans.

When he is not working, Harry enjoys spending time with his lovely wife, Gayle, and their two sons, Rick and Chris. A resident of Warrenton, VA, Harry serves as a committee chairman of Boy Scout troop 175, in which his sons are members. For the past 7 years, Harry has volunteered as a Babe Ruth baseball coach, and he is a former member of the Fauquier County Youth Baseball Commission.

Harry Burroughs is one of those hard-working men and women who make all of us

in this institution look better than we deserve. He certainly did that for me in the years he served on my personal and my committee staff, and I appreciate this opportunity to publicly thank him for the dedication, loyalty and professionalism he exhibited over the years I have had the opportunity to work with him.

Mr. Speaker, I know you join with me in saying "thank you" to Harry F. Burroughs III for his years of loyal service to me, to the men and women of Texas' 8th Congressional District, and to this great institution. And I know you join with me in wishing him and his family many years of happiness and good fortune in the years ahead.

DAVE MOORE: A GUARDIAN FOR
WORKER FAIRNESS IN SAN DIEGO

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 12, 1996

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to recognize Dave Moore, the business manager and financial secretary of Local 465 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, who will be justly honored as the 1996 Labor Leader of the Year by the San Diego County Building & Construction Trades Council on September 14, 1996.

Dave Moore was born into a union family in Schenectady, NY, and went on to spend his life in the larger union family that is the labor movement. Arriving in San Diego in 1960, he was quickly hired by San Diego Gas & Electric Co. His leadership qualities were obvious within his union, which made him a steward in 1962, and he achieved the position of journeyman lineman by 1967.

As Dave Moore's skills and knowledge increased, so did his zeal to serve—and to lead—his coworkers and his union. All of these qualities were duly recognized when, after 8 years as a steward, Dave was elected to his union's executive board. So successful were his two terms that he was appointed assistant business manager.

Dave was elected president of Local 465 in 1980 for two terms, and then served for two successive terms as the Local's business manager. Never forgetting his roots or his union brothers and sisters, he resumed work at San Diego Gas & Electric Co. for 3 years before being reelected as the Local's business manager for the third time in 1995. Dave Moore is a back-to-basics labor leader, ever watchful and alert to threats to the dignity of workers and always working and fighting for fair pay and fair treatment. He has worked to gain benefits such as health care, pensions, and parental leave, not only for his own family, but for the whole union family.

Mr. Speaker, I join labor leaders and many others in San Diego in congratulating Dave Moore on receiving the Labor Leader of the Year Award from the San Diego Building & Construction Trades Council.

HONORING L. CLURE MORTON

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 12, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor one of the great judicial minds in Tennessee's history, who has ruled from the bench without passion or prejudice, gaining the respect of not only his peers and colleague, but of the community in which he served. Earlier today it was my pleasure to introduce legislation, which has been cosponsored by all of my colleagues in the Tennessee delegation, that will designate the U.S. Post Office and Courthouse in Cookeville, TN, the "L. Clure Morton Post Office and Court House."

Since his appointment to the bench in 1970 by President Richard Nixon, L. Clure Morton's career as a Federal judge has been distinguished by fairness, insight, innovation, and an iron grip on his courtroom. During his tenure, Judge Morton has never avoided controversial issues, addressing school integration, welfare, mental health systems, and prison reform.

Following his graduation from our alma mater, the University of Tennessee School of Law, Judge Morton spent 33 years in private practice, during which he also began his years of public service as a special agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation. His judicial career began in 1970 with his appointment as a U.S. District Court judge in Nashville. He was then elevated to chief judge in 1977, and took senior status in 1984 which he currently holds, presiding over the northeastern division.

Earlier this year, Judge Morton decided to hang up his gavel and retire from the bench after 26 years. My bill will serve as a tribute to his undying commitment to make middle Tennessee a safer, fairer place. Though he will no longer preside over a courtroom, his presence will always be felt, having his name etched in stone at the Cookeville, Federal building.

H.R. 4056, LEGISLATION FOR
AUTOMATIC CITIZENSHIP

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 12, 1996

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I have introduced legislation, H.R. 4056, to make it easier for legal residents to become citizens. Since Congress is passing laws that deny programs to noncitizens, it's appropriate to make it easier for them to become citizens.

The bill I have introduced, H.R. 4056, is legislation which authorizes automatic U.S. citizenship for three categories of legal permanent residents: Persons who have resided in the United States for at least 20 years; persons who have worked and paid Social Security taxes for at least 40 quarters; persons who are at least 70 years old and who have lived legally in the United States for at least 5 years; and persons who are U.S. veterans with an honorable discharge.

Current requirements for naturalization are retained including that of: Good moral character, attached to the principles of the Con-

stitution of the United States, and well disposed to the good order and happiness of the United States.

There exist long backlogs in the naturalization workloads of the Immigration and Naturalization Service delaying citizenship for law-abiding individuals described in my legislation—those who have lived a significant amount of time in the United States, dedicated workers, the elderly, and our veterans. I strongly urge my colleagues to support my legislation, H.R. 4056, which enhances and hastens the acquisition of U.S. citizenship to truly worthy individuals.

GADSDEN JOB CORPS CENTER
ENRICHES YOUNG LIVES

HON. TOM BEVILL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 12, 1996

Mr. BEVILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Job Corps Center in Gadsden, AL, which enriches the lives of young people every day. Like their 60,000 fellow students at 100 Job Corps Centers nationwide, the young men and women enrolled at the Gadsden Job Corps Center are committed to improving their opportunities by obtaining marketable skills.

The Gadsden Job Corps Center represents an outstanding model of public-private partnerships in the Gadsden community. The U.S. Department of Labor's Office of Job Corps, Gadsden State Community College, and local citizens have joined forces to provide educational and vocational training for the students of Alabama through the Job Corps program.

While enrolled in the program, Job Corps students give back to their communities by donating their time and services. In fact, nationwide, Job Corps students have contributed more than \$42 million worth of services in the past 5 years.

In Gadsden, the skills of the students were demonstrated by the landscaping class in projects at Donahoo Elementary School and the fire station. The culinary arts students prepared eggs for Head Start's annual easter egg hunt sponsored by the Gadsden Job Corps Center.

These projects illustrate the positive relationships developed between Job Corps and the community. These experiences enhance the students' work history and provide exposure to volunteerism.

Job Corps students return the Federal Government's investment in them through reduced welfare and unemployment costs as they become working, taxpaying citizens. Congress supports Job Corps because it is a proven national program for at-risk young people which gets results.

I recently spent time with the students at the Gadsden Job Corps Center and I was very impressed by their enthusiasm, energy, and commitment to improving their lives and contributing to their community. I remain committed to the investment that we make in these young people through the Job Corps program. Job Corps works for America.