

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY VALOR AWARD WINNERS

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 12, 2000

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure today to rise and bring to the attention of my colleagues some very special public safety personnel in Montgomery County, Maryland. Every year, the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce honors police officers and fire fighters who have shown the highest level of dedication to their noble duties. These individuals are being honored on April 14, 2000 at the 1999 Public Safety Awards Luncheon.

The Valor Awards honor public service officials who have demonstrated extreme self-sacrifice, personal bravery, and ingenuity in the performance of their duty. There are five categories: The Gold Medal of Valor; The Silver Medal of Valor; The Bronze Medal of Valor; The Honorable Mention Award; and The Bernard D. Crooke, Jr. (Police) and Leslie B. Thompson (Fire and Rescue) Community Service Award.

The Silver Medal of Valor is awarded in recognition of acts involving great personal risk. The Silver Medal of Valor Award Winners for 1999 are: Police Officer 1 Valentine Schiller, Police Officer 1 Peter Sheng, Police Officer 3 Stephen Matthews, and Police Officer 3 Curtis Jacobs.

The Bronze Medal of Valor is awarded in recognition of acts of bravery involving unusual personal risk beyond that which should be expected while performing the usual responsibility of the member. The Bronze Medal of Valor Award Winners for 1999 are: Police Officer 3 Brian Dillman, Police Officer 3 Claude Onley, Sergeant Dom Fazio, Lieutenant Daniel Irvine, Firefighter/Paramedic 3 Sherry Hohl, Firefighter/Rescuer 3 Ernest Farkas, and Firefighter/Rescuer 3 Jody Nightengale.

The Honorable Mention Award is awarded for acts that involve personal risk and/or demonstration of judgment, zeal, or ingenuity not normally involved in the performance of duties. The Honorable Mention Award Winners for 1999 are: Lieutenant Michael Garvey, Sergeant Robert Phillips, Police Officer 3 Edward Tarney, Police Officer 3 Robert Hunt, Police Officer 1 Theresa Durham, Police Officer 3 Robin M. Dyer, Firefighter/Rescuer 3 Kirk Risinger, Firefighter/Rescuer 2 Stephen Batdorff, Firefighter/Rescuer 3 Anthony Veith, firefighter/Rescuer Larry Lewis, and Firefighter/Rescuer 3 Douglas Hinkle.

The Community Service Award is awarded for dedication and initiative above and beyond the call of duty over a period of time without compensation, that has affected and benefited the citizens of Montgomery County. The Bernard D. Crooke, Jr. Community Service Award Winner for 1999 is Police Officer 2 Charles J. Welter. The Leslie B. Thompson

Community Service Award Winner for 1999 is Fire and Rescue Department Communications Manager Mary Marchone.

Due to the dedicated efforts of these public servants who place the safety and well-being of others above their own, Montgomery County is a better place to live. They have rightfully earned the highest appreciation and respect from myself, the members of the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce, and from all the people of our community whose lives they have touched. I know my colleagues will join me in thanking these heroes for a job well done.

COMMEMORATION OF THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED STATES NAVY SUBMARINE FORCE

HON. FRANK A. LOBIONDO

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 12, 2000

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, April 11, 2000, marked the centennial anniversary of the United States Navy Submarine Force. To commemorate this unique event, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the thousands of sailors who have gallantly served our nation as members of this elite group.

April 11, 1900 ushered in the birth of this outstanding American Naval Force, which has proven its undeniable worth through every major military endeavor our country has asked the Navy to address. In World War II alone, the Navy Submarine Force scored the most complete victory of any force in any theater of war by destroying 1,314 ships between 1939 and 1945. Out of 16,000 submariners, the force lost 375 officers and 3,131 enlisted men in fifty-two submarines, the lowest casualty rate of any combatant submarine service on any side in the conflict.

Now capable of firing missiles from a vertical launch system, the Navy's Los Angeles class SSNs have proven very useful in the more restricted spaces of modern littoral war at sea. Submarine launched Tomahawks have proven extraordinarily effective in a variety of combat operations starting with Desert Storm.

With a drastically reduced force, submariners still manage to conduct both independent tactical and strategic patrols, as well as renewed joint operations with carrier battle groups. Without a doubt, the United States Navy Submarine force continues to be one of the most valuable components to our nation's well-being and security.

Thank you for your tireless effort, dedication, and contribution to America's continued prosperity and happy anniversary.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON MEDICAL SCHOOL

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 12, 2000

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, today I commend the fine folks at the University of Washington Medical School for doing an exemplary job of preparing doctors and medical personnel for our future.

This year, The U.S. News and World Report rated the University of Washington Medical School as the TOP primary care medical school in our country. This Medical School has been their top choice for the past seven years. In choosing to recognize the University of Washington, The U.S. News and World Report looked at the school's excellent reputation, the quality of the research conducted by its students and faculty, and the low faculty to student ratio among other criteria. I would like to add to this that the University of Washington Medical School is also the leading teaching hospital in the five-state northwestern region of our country.

I am particularly impressed by the specific programs within the Medical School that The U.S. News and World Report recognized for excellence. The University of Washington Medical School has the best family medicine program and the best rural medicine program in our country. Its programs for women's health, AIDS, Pediatrics and Geriatrics are rated in the top five in our country. It also boasts leading nursing, physician assistant and dental programs.

To me, this means that the facility and administration at the University of Washington Medical School is producing the very best of the doctors who will care for our families, our parents and our children. I know that the students who attend the Medical School will spread out across our country bringing the wisdom and the skills that they learned at the University. Like all doctors, the graduates of the University of Washington Medical School maintain the gift of life. Unlike most, they have had the privilege of attending the best Medical School in the nation. I am proud that this institution graces the state that I represent and I commend all who have made the Medical School into what it is today.

HONORING THE 138TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA EMANCIPATION ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 12, 2000

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank my distinguished colleague, Representative DON MANZULLO, for joining me in our annual observance of Emancipation Day, and for his

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

generous and continued attention to the District of Columbia.

One hundred thirty-eight years ago, President Lincoln ended slavery in the District, nine months before the Emancipation Proclamation was signed. In 1862, the existence of slavery and denial of human rights in the Nation's Capital was a contradiction in terms. Today, we use this occasion to draw attention to a continuing contradiction. District of Columbia citizens are still denied basic rights in the Capital of the free world. The District is the only jurisdiction in America whose citizens pay taxes, but are denied full representation in Congress. D.C. residents are the only Americans whose laws can be overturned by Congress, in violation of American principles of local self-government.

I am pleased to note that this year the D.C. Council has passed a bill designating April 16th as District of Columbia Emancipation Day. How much more would District residents rejoice if they had the full representation and freedom enjoyed by other Americans. How much more joyously would they celebrate if the right to vote in this House and in the Senate were their basic right.

Because of a historic court case, we believe this right is within our reach. Two lawsuits on their way to the U.S. Supreme Court, *Adams v. Clinton* and *Alexander v. Daley*, have been consolidated to challenge the denial of basic democratic rights. We are indebted to the attorneys, John Ferren, former D.C. Corporation Counsel; Charles Miller and Thomas Williamson, of Covington & Burling; Jamin Raskin, Professor of Law, American University; and George LaRoche, who handled this case before a three-judge court. And we are indebted to the 75 citizens who are the plaintiffs in these suits and who, therefore, represent all the citizens of the District of Columbia.

Judge Oberdorfer, the distinguished, dissenting jurist in the case, wrote, "Under established constitutional principles, neither the . . . people of the District nor their posterity forfeited [their] constitutional right when the District became the seat of government." In the District, we have a history of recognizing April 16th as a day of celebration. We do so this year with special determination to gain and enjoy all the benefits that American citizenship provides—full representation in Congress.

I salute D.C. Reading is Fundamental for its continued efforts to promote Emancipation Day in the District. Its work inspires our children to read, to learn the history of this city, and to insist, as Americans, upon their full rights.

HONORING JO ANNE DARCY OF CALIFORNIA

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON
OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 12, 2000

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize Jo Anne Darcy on the occasion of her retirement as Senior Field Deputy for Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich, in the county's Fifth Supervisorial District.

Mrs. Darcy has served as Senior Field Deputy for Los Angeles County Supervisor Mike Antonovich, serving the unincorporated areas

of the Santa Clarita Valley, ever since Supervisor Antonovich was elected in 1980. She has diligently served the citizens of the Santa Clarita Valley in a wide variety of roles, from case work to law enforcement to parks, as well as representing the Supervisor at events in the district. She has performed her job with great dedication, energy, skill and obvious love for the people of Santa Clarita Valley.

Mrs. Darcy is also the Mayor of Santa Clarita. I had the honor of serving with Mrs. Darcy on Santa Clarita's first elected City Council when the city was incorporated in 1987. She has served continuously on the City Council since then, having been re-elected to another four-year term in April 1998. She served as Mayor in 1990, 1994, 1999 and 2000.

Mrs. Darcy has been a tireless and dedicated public servant, both in her elected and appointed positions, and in the many volunteer activities in which she has been engaged. These activities are too numerous to mention fully. However, some of them include serving on the California State Film Commission, chairing the film committee of the Newhall-Saugus-Valencia Chamber of Commerce; serving as Founding Officer of the Friends of the Libraries of SCV; co-chairing and serving as Executive Director of the Western Walk of Fame and Newhall Walk of Western Stars; Founding the Zonta Club of SCV; serving as Founding Member of the SCV Historical Society; Founding Officer to the Association to Aid Victims of Domestic Violence; President of the Santa Clarita Valley American Heart Association; Chairing an annual wine auction that Benefits the SCV Senior Center's Meals on Wheels Program.

Mrs. Darcy has been named the Woman of the Year by the SCV Chamber of Commerce; the Outstanding Woman from the Soroptomists, the Citizen of the Year from the Santa Clarita Elks Lodge, and many, many other honors from community groups.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to continuing to work with Mrs. Darcy in her role as Mayor and City Council member of Santa Clarita. I wish her all the best in her retirement from Supervisor Antonovich's office.

CONGRATULATING UND'S
FIGHTING SIOUX

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 12, 2000

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the University of North Dakota's Fighting Sioux hockey team for their exciting win Saturday night over Boston College to clinch the NCAA Division I National Championship for Hockey. Congratulations to UND President Charles Kupchella and UND Hockey Coach Dean Blais and, of course, to the entire Fighting Sioux team.

This is the seventh time that the University of North Dakota hockey team has won the NCAA Division I hockey championship. The last time the team won the title was in 1997.

This team out of Grand Forks, North Dakota exemplifies the very best features of our great state. They work hard, support each other, rally behind one another, and, through teamwork, they get the job done. These players are

true champions on the ice, and, like all true champions, they share the glory.

The efforts of these young men are reflected not only in their collective win, but in the honors that some of the individual earned this year. Lee Goren, otherwise known as "Scorin' Goren," earned the tournament's Most Outstanding Player award and led the league in scoring while goalie Karl Goehring, had eight shut-outs during the season. Their accomplishments reflect well on the team, their coach and the spirit at UND.

Just, as they are examples of the best of UND athletics, these athletes are also stellar performers in the classroom. Combined, the team has a cumulative grade point average of 3.12; stand-out goalie Karl Goehring has a 4.0 gpa. To me, one of the most exciting statistics about the team this year is that twelve members of the team were named to the WCHA All-American Academic Team.

North Dakota has much to be proud of at the University of North Dakota. UND's John D. Odegard School of Aerospace Sciences is one of, if not THE, best non-military aviation program in the world. UND's Energy and Environmental Research Center has clients all over the world and UND's School of Medicine and Health Sciences is a national leader in educating doctors for rural medicine and family practice, and has educated about 20 percent of the Native American doctors currently practicing in the United States.

There is no shortage of outstanding programs at the University of North Dakota, but this week, the work of the UND hockey team justifiably takes center ice. They are true champions, and North Dakotans—especially UND alumni such as myself—are proud of their accomplishments.

These men are role models both on and off of the ice. They are skilled athletically, academically and are known for their good sportsmanship.

I want to commend them for their achievement today. These young men represent North Dakota well. I wish them continued success in all of their future endeavors.

TAXPAYER BILL OF RIGHTS 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. MAX SANDLIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 11, 2000

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Taxpayer Bill of Rights 2000. This legislation offers strong protections of taxpayers, including much-needed safeguards on personal information. This bill recognizes the importance of protecting taxpayers' privacy and would help prevent the illegal disclosure of personal information.

The Taxpayer Bill of Rights, however, fulfills only a small part of our obligation to protect individual privacy. Last year, I voted for legislation, the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Financial Services Modernization bill, that contained new federal protections of consumers' financial privacy. This legislation, which passed Congress and was signed into law by the President, allows consumers to protect their privacy by choosing to opt-out of information sharing by their financial institutions.

The protections included in the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act are an important beginning

and represent a minimum federal standard. Most importantly, the new law affords states the opportunity to pass even tougher restrictions on information sharing, thus giving them the chance to enact their own consumer privacy protections above and beyond the federal minimum.

Allowing consumers the right to opt-out is a step in the right direction, although we still have many challenges ahead of us with regard to adequately protecting medical information and safeguarding Internet privacy. I urge my colleagues to join me in this important effort and continue to work hard to protect the privacy rights of every American.

TRIBUTE TO DR. HENRY J.
HEIMLICH

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 12, 2000

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to Dr. Henry J. Heimlich, a community hero, an internationally recognized leader in health care, and a dear friend who will be honored on April 20 by the Rotary Club of Cincinnati. This recognition will come during National Heimlich Maneuver Week. He was selected for these honors because of his outstanding contributions to the medical community that have literally saved thousands of lives.

In fact, Dr. Heimlich has been credited with saving more lives than any other living person. Dr. Heimlich's most notable accomplishment, of course, is the Heimlich Maneuver, which he created in 1974. Since its creation, the Heimlich Maneuver has been used to save the lives of countless people from choking deaths, to prevent and halt asthma attacks, and to clear near-drowning victims' water-filled lungs more safely.

Perhaps lesser known is the Heimlich Operation, which is considered the first successful organ transplant in history. This operation enables patients with an esophagus birth defect, who previously only could be fed through a tube inserted into their stomachs, to eat normally.

Dr. Heimlich also invented the Heimlich Micro Trach, a tiny tube that is inserted into the trachea to deliver oxygen from a small tank directly to the lungs, enabling oxygen-dependent patients to become mobile and return to work and social activities.

Dr. Heimlich's Chest Drain Valve is credited with saving the lives of thousands of American soldiers during the Vietnam War. It is used in emergency treatment of people with chest wounds to clear air and fluids from the chest cavity. Up to a quarter million of these valves are used worldwide every year in civilian and military medicine.

Although he has already achieved much, Dr. Heimlich is still working to save lives. He continues development of malariotherapy, which, through a curable form of malaria, increases the body's immune responses to fight viruses and cancer by increasing production of such biochemicals as interferon, interleukin-1 and tumor necrosis factor. Dr. Heimlich believes that malariotherapy can be used, with more research, to fight cancer, AIDS, and Lyme disease.

At the age of 80, Dr. Heimlich continues his important work at the Heimlich Institute where new ways to improve and save lives are being researched. All of us in Cincinnati are grateful to him for his full devotion, service, and most impressive contributions to our community and the world.

WILDLIFE AND SPORT FISH RESTORATION PROGRAMS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 5, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3671) to amend the Acts popularly known as the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act and the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act to enhance the funds available for grants to States for fish and wildlife conservation projects and increase opportunities for recreational hunting, bow hunting, trapping, archery, and fishing, by eliminating opportunities for waste, fraud, abuse, maladministration, and unauthorized expenditures for administration and execution of those Acts, and for other purposes:

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Chairman, I submit the following into the RECORD in support of H.R. 3671.

ARCHERY MANUFACTURERS AND
MERCHANTS ORGANIZATION,
Gainesville, FL, March 13, 2000.

Hon. DON YOUNG,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR DON: We heartily support H.R. 3671, the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs Improvement Act of 2000. We feel this measure will tighten-up the administration of these programs and we are particularly supportive of Sec. 102, Firearm and Bow Hunter Education and Safety Program Grants of H.R. 3671. This will go a long way toward fulfilling the commitment made to our sport and industry when we agreed to be taxed under Pittman-Robertson some 30 years ago.

We also are greatly appreciative of having had the opportunity to participate in discussions with staff leading up to the writing of H.R. 3671. There was a refreshing openness in this entire process.

Sincerely,

DICK LATTIMER,
President/CEO.

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICA, INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION,
Fairfax, VA, March 13, 2000.

Hon. DON YOUNG,
Chairman, House Resources Committee, Longworth House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN YOUNG: The NRA wholeheartedly supports your bill, H.R. 3671, the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs Improvement Act. We speak on behalf of every one of our 3.2 million members who pay into the Pittman-Robertson trust fund whether they own firearms for self-defense, recreational shooting, collecting or hunting.

Sportsmen and other firearm owners put their faith and trust in the Federal Government when they elected to be taxed to help fledgling state fish and wildlife agencies of

the 1930's begin to launch what we take for granted today as scientific wildlife management. For over six decades, sportsmen have trusted the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to manage their excise tax dollars for the benefit of state wildlife restoration programs. However, alarmed over several programs created with the use of administrative dollars, but without legal authority, the NRA went on record in a statement submitted for your 1996 oversight hearing on the "Teaming with Wildlife" concept urging the Congress to examine how the Service was spending trust fund administrative dollars. Never did we imagine the extent of waste, abuse and mismanagement that was uncovered through your Committee's investigative efforts.

The NRA strongly believes that meaningful, long-lasting reform can only be assured through legislative reform as embraced by your legislation, H.R. 3671. What the Service can implement administratively to strengthen internal controls and management for Pittman-Robertson trust fund and its counterpart, the Dingell-Johnson trust fund, should be encouraged. But those efforts alone cannot restore the trust of our members. Reform must be anchored in corrective measures made as amendments to the underlying laws.

The NRA appreciates the opportunity that you accorded us to participate in discussions regarding the shape the reform language should take. Your bill reflects a very deliberative process in assimilating a diverse array of recommendations and views. There are two provisions of H.R. 3671 I would like to comment on that are of particular importance to our membership. First, the bill ensures that none of the administrative funds will ever be used by any organization that promotes or encourages opposition to hunting, fishing or trapping or for any project that promotes such opposition. This is language critical to a reform bill.

Second, on behalf of all our members that rely on shooting ranges for firearm and hunter safety courses and recreational and competitive shooting, we appreciate having language in the bill that earmarks funds for shooting and archery range purposes. These funds will supplement the discretionary funds made available to states from one-half of the excise tax revenue collected on the sale of handguns and archery equipment. For years our recreational shooters have expressed concern that states have not lived up to the bargain struck with them in support of the extension of the excise tax in the 1970's. We trust that the states will look to these funds as additional support to assist them in meeting the needs of the excise tax paying shooters, hunters and archers and will not attempt to use these funds as an offset to the discretionary funds.

We thank you for your leadership in overseeing the examination of Service's management of the trust funds and your commitment provide an avenue to restore health and vitality to the programs. These trust funds are unprecedented in the world and while the conservation dollars can be counted in the billions, the conservation benefits are inestimable. It is important for all of us who cherish our fish and wildlife resources to see that the sportsmen and women of this country are given a sound reason to be taxed for the benefit of the conservation, restoration, and enhancement of those same resources.

Sincerely,

JAMES JAY BAKER,
Executive Director.

NATIONAL TRAPPERS
ASSOCIATION, INC.,

New Martinsville, WV, March 13, 2000.

Congressman DON YOUNG.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN YOUNG: This communication is to indicate the support of the National Trappers Association for H.R. 3671.

NTA has worked hard to assure corrective actions are taken to be sure the PR-DJ Funds from excise taxes are used for wildlife and conservation efforts as originally intended.

Thank you so much for doing the right thing for sportsmen in America, the true conservationists who put their money where their mouth is.

Sincerely,

SCOTT HARTMAN,

Director, National & International Affairs.

NATIONAL WILDERNESS INSTITUTE,
Washington, DC, April 5, 2000.

Hon. DON YOUNG,

Chairman, House Resources Committee, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for introducing The Wildlife and Sport Restoration and Improvement Act of 2000. This bill will help stop the mismanagement by the current leadership of the Fish and Wildlife Service of the Dingell-Johnson Act, the Pittman-Robertson Act and other programs administered by the Division of Federal Aid. These laws are based on the remarkably straightforward idea of using an excise tax on guns, ammunition and fishing gear to provide a secure funding base for state fish and game departments. Most state fish and wildlife agencies get their budgets almost entirely from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses and P-R and D-J funds.

In much of the world, sport hunting and fishing are the privilege of noblemen but America is different, and sportsmen here are determined to preserve our country's outdoor heritage and maintain hunting and fishing opportunities for everyone. That is why sportsmen started these programs which have been largely responsible for the development of scientific wildlife management. Of course, the sound wildlife conservation efforts underwritten by sportsmen also benefit non-game species. When sportsmen create habitat for quail, ducks or trout, they also provide habitat for woodpeckers, eagles and all other species.

Sportsmen pay for conservation and the rest of us have pretty much gotten a free ride. That is why it was so wrong for the current leaders of the Fish and Wildlife Service to loot this uniquely effective program to create slush funds and use it as a cash cow to cover foreign travel and unrelated administrative expenses. Their attempt to divert these funds to anti-hunting groups is an even worse affront. The mismanagement of these funds is cause for concern about any new funding mechanism that do not require annual appropriations. We greatly appreciate your leadership in upholding our sportsmen-conservationist heritage and taking steps to clean up the problems at the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Sincerely,

ROB GORDON,
Executive Director.

SAFARI CLUB INTERNATIONAL,
Herndon, VA, March 10, 2000.

Representative DON YOUNG,

Chairman, House Resources Committee, Rayburn HOB, Washington, DC.

RE: H.R. 3671, the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration and Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act

DEAR CHAIRMAN YOUNG: Safari Club International (SCI) considers H.R. 3671, the Pitt-

man-Robertson Wildlife Restoration and Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act, to be of utmost importance for the future of sportsmen and wildlife in the 106th Congress.

This is a bipartisan reform legislative effort. The bill has been introduced with a diverse and respected group of co-sponsors, including yourself, Representative John Dingell (D-MI), Representative Tom DeLay (R-TX), Representative Owen Pickett (D-VA), Representative Richard Pombo (R-CA), Representative Chris John (D-LA), Representative John Peterson (R-PA), and others. The Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus supports the legislation because of the positive impact it will have on wildlife, habitat and sportsmen far into the future.

H.R. 3671 will bring integrity and respect back into the system. As you know, the original intent of the Pittman-Robertson (P-R) excise tax was that it be used solely for the purpose of wildlife restoration in the 50 states. GAO investigations into the misuse of P-R funds revealed that "P-R funds were being administered like a big shell game." H.R. 3671 eliminates any ambiguity in the current statute by explicitly delineating proper purposes for the fund. In addition to setting clear guidelines for federal administrators it will also emphasize to state wildlife administrators the intent of the law when spending sportsmen's dollars. H.R. 3671 will ensure accountability when spending money that comes from sportsmen.

In many cases the past distribution and spending of Pittman-Robertson funds did not follow the intent of the 1937 law. The areas badly neglected were hunter education, firearms safety, archery ranges, archery training and firearms ranges. Groups like SCI, AMO, NSSF, and NRA had to privately fund hunter education. Seven thousand volunteers had to step in and assume responsibility because this intended use of P-R money was not fulfilled as it should have been.

For example, in 1970, archers were promised that if they came into the excise tax program, that 50% of the money raised would be used for ranges and instruction. Since 1975, \$282,189,160.00 have been raised. Very little of the promised \$141 million has been used for ranges or instruction. Most of it was diverted to other uses. A very important part of the legislation is a restatement of the original intent.

The final, and perhaps the most important part of the legislation is a provision that encourages NGO's to participate in a matching grant program for hunter education, shooting safety, and recruitment of young people into an appreciation of the outdoors. This section involves those who pay the tax by allowing them to have a voice in how their money is spent.

For over 60 years, Pittman-Robertson funds have provided an abundance of wildlife and habitat that is enjoyed by sportsmen and the general public. Thank you for your support of H.R. 3671, which insures that this work can continue far into the future.

Sincerely,

LAWRENCE S. KATZ,
President.

ALFRED S. DONAU, III,
Government Affairs Chairman.

HON. RON MARLENEE,
Consultant.

TEXAS WILDLIFE ASSOCIATION,
San Antonio, TX, March 31, 2000.

Hon. DON YOUNG,

Chair, House of Representatives, Committee on Resources, RHOB, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN YOUNG: One of the great honors of my life has been testifying before you and your committee describing the problems that resulted in your filing H.R. 3671. Passing without dissent out of your com-

mittee speaks volumes about bringing justice to the folks who have been paying for conservation since 1937, and before. Who are they? Hunters and anglers have paid for conservation . . . period.

Not only has the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service forgotten this fact, they have also ignored the central mission of government: government should enable rather than require, let alone try to do itself. Your H.R. 3671 reminds the USFWS that their first duty is to empower the states to foster effort from their citizens.

The thousands of members of the Texas Wildlife Association, who hunt and fish and lovingly conserve many, many millions of acres of private wildlife habitat, urge all members of Congress to vote for H.R. 3671.

Very respectfully submitted,

DAVID K. LANGFORD,
Executive Vice President.

TRANS TEXAS HERITAGE ASSOCIATION,
Alpine, TX, March 31, 2000.

Hon. DON YOUNG,

Chairman, House Resources Committee, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN YOUNG: The Trans Texas Heritage Association and regional associations, Davis Mountains Trans-Pecos and Hill Country Heritage Associations, represent members who own more than 15.5 million acres of private land in Texas. It is on behalf of these members that we thank you for introducing The Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration and Improvement Act of 2000.

The Heritage Association members are land stewards, sportsmen, and conservationists. We are outraged by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) mishandling of funds from the Pittman-Robertson, Dingell-Johnson Act and other programs which were specifically set aside to fund state fish and game departments. Even more reprehensible is the USFWS's attempt to divert these funds to anti-hunting groups. We are thankful that The Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration and Improvement Act of 2000 will help to stop these and other abuses.

Chairman Young, we sincerely appreciate your commitment and efforts that will benefit the preservation and conservation of our nation's sportsmen's and outdoor heritage.

Very truly yours,

C.M. VAN EMAN,
President.

THE MULE DEER FOUNDATION,
Reno, NV, April 5, 2000.

Hon. DON YOUNG,

Chairman, House Resources Committee, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Your leadership for The Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration and Improvement Act of 2000 is to be commended. The Mule Deer Foundation (MDF) anticipates this bill, when enacted, will assist the US Fish and Wildlife Service to better manage Federal Aid funds. MDF is especially supportive of good management of the funds from the Pittman-Robertson Act and the Dingell-Johnson Act. These Acts are central to the conservation funding in this country and are, frankly, an unprecedented model for sustainable conservation worldwide. Hunters and fishermen in our country historically have been the first to step to the plate to support conservation and these Acts provide a critical source of funding for conservation to stated conservation agencies. With the disparate pressures that come from varied interests, it is of critical importance that we continue to safeguard and improve the management of these funds.

The Mule Deer Foundation recognizes that this bill passed out of the House Resources Committee with an amazing 36-0 vote. MDF

would like to voice its support for this bill and congratulations to the Committee for its bi-partisan approach to improving management of Federal Aid Funds.

The Mule Deer Foundation is a 501(c)(3) not for profit, charitable organization whose Mission is to ensure the conservation of mule and blacktailed deer and their habitats.

Chairman Young, on behalf of The Mule Deer Foundation, let me thank you and your Committee on this effort in behalf of American's conservation programs.

Very truly yours,

WILLIAM I. MORRILL,
President, and CEO.

GULF LUMBER COMPANY, INC.,

Mobile, AL, April 5, 2000.

Hon. DON YOUNG, *Chairman*, House Resources Committee, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Since the founding of the Mobile County Wildlife Association and the Alabama Wildlife Federation in the mid 1930's, my family has been involved in the innumerable conservation and wildlife organizations. We have spent untold dollars and man-hours furthering the conservation of wildlife and wildlife habitat.

I tell you this to say thank you for introducing The Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration and Improvement Act of 2000. This bill will help stop the mismanagement by the current leadership of the Fish and Wildlife

Service of the Dingell-Johnson Act, the Pittman-Robertson Act and other programs administered by the Division of Federal Aid.

It is wrong for the current leaders of the Fish and Wildlife Service to loot this uniquely effective program to create slush funds and use it as a cash cow to cover foreign travel and unrelated administrative expenses. Their attempt to divert these funds to anti-hunting groups is an even worse affront.

We greatly appreciate your leadership in upholding our sportsmen-conservationist heritage and taking steps to clean up the problems at the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Sincerely,

W.S. (SANDY) STIMPSON,
Sr. Vice President.