

months after diagnosis. This is why it is a moral imperative for Congress to work to increase awareness of this deadly cancer.

Currently, the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network (known as "Pan CAN") is the only national advocacy organization available for pancreatic cancer patients and their families and friends. I became aware of Pan CAN through a constituent of mine, Bob Hammen, who lost his wife to this terrible disease. Pan CAN provides patient support and professional education about this disease, while coordinating advocacy programs to focus national attention on finding a cure for pancreatic cancer.

Pan CAN regards each November as Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month. With the passage of H. Res. 276, Congress will be supporting Pan CAN's efforts to raise awareness about pancreatic cancer so that scientific advancements can lead to early detection programs and effective treatments.

Mr. Speaker, because all of our fellow citizens have family, friends and neighbors who are regrettably vulnerable to this dreaded disease, I urge support from my distinguished colleagues for this resolution here today.

DEDICATION TO A COMMUNITY

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 6, 2005

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure, a great pleasure, for me to inform you, my colleagues in Congress, and through you the entire nation, about the kind of public service and dedication found in Vermont and, I suspect, in other villages, towns and cities throughout America.

Aileen O'Neil has been the town clerk of Woodford, Vermont for 36 years. For well over three decades she has met the needs of the people in her town of 421 citizens, keeping the town going and its records up to date. Her long and dedicated service was recently recognized by the Vermont Municipal Clerks and Treasurers Association, for they named her Vermont's Town Clerk of the Year.

During all of those 36 years Aileen O'Neil has done what needs to be done, with care, with courtesy, and with a concern for the public life we share with one another. What she told a newspaper reporter recently is a model for all of us, for I think each of us would like to be able to say, while still at work after so many years, "I love my job. I've loved my job all these years. It's a purpose in life for me."

We are lucky to have her, both as a town clerk in Woodford and as an example for all of us.

IN HONOR OF SID BALICK

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 6, 2005

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to Sid Balick for his outstanding contributions to the Boys and Girls Clubs of Delaware. With over 40 years of service under his belt, Sid is the longest serving board member in the history of the organization.

While growing up in Delaware, Sid was a member of the Jackson Street Boys Club. This experience fostered an understanding of the values and lessons instilled by the Boys and Girls Clubs, prompting Sid's longstanding commitment to these important community service organizations.

Tonight, friends, family, and colleagues will honor Sid at a function paying tribute to his contributions to the city of Wilmington as an attorney, civic leader and volunteer. During his distinguished career, he has also served in the Delaware State House of Representatives and as President of the American Civil Liberties Union of Delaware.

Always a generous supporter, Sid has asked that the proceeds from his event be donated to the Boys and Girls Clubs' Capital Campaign. These contributions will serve to enhance education and fitness programs at the various Boys and Girls Clubs throughout the State of Delaware.

In closing Mr. Speaker, I would like to once again congratulate and thank Sid for his tremendous contributions to the State of Delaware. Generations of children owe him a debt of gratitude, and I am pleased to be able to vocalize their appreciation. An exemplary citizen and proud American, we all owe Sid a sincere thank you.

REPORT BY THE CENTER ON NATIONAL POLICY

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 6, 2005

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I commend to my colleagues a report by the reputable Center on National Policy focusing on early childhood education. There is much in this report that is of value to Congress as we move to eliminate the achievement gap in this. The full report can be found at <http://www.cnponline.org/Education.htm> I am enclosing the executive summary for your review below.

With mounting evidence that high-quality early child care and education can significantly affect life chances, especially for low-income children, a CNP report calls for development of a comprehensive national policy to ensure broad access to effective programs. Authors Jennifer Kolker, David Osborne and Eric Schnurer review data on program availability, adequacy and cost. They assess state efforts, current federal funding and coordination issues. They urge Congress and the President to act so that outcomes improve for all American children.

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY: 2005 SECRETARY OF DEFENSE EMPLOYER SUPPORT FREEDOM AWARD RECIPIENT

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 6, 2005

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to report that South Dakota State University (SDSU) has been awarded the 2005 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award.

The Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award was instituted in 1996 by Secretary of Defense William Perry and the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve. The award was created to publicly recognize American employers who provide exceptional support to their employees who serve the Nation in the National Guard and Reserve.

Mr. Speaker, let me express my admiration for SDSU and the South Dakota National Guard and Reserve. South Dakota has one of the highest rates of mobilization in the Nation. This high rate of service is a reflection of the hard work and pride South Dakota National Guard and Reserve members maintain. I am grateful for SDSU's tremendous support of the National Guard and Reserve. The university represents South Dakota principles with remarkable distinction.

SDSU provides differential pay for its employees for the entire length of their activation and student academic progression support. In addition, it grants employees 40 hours of paid personal leave for preparation of a deployment. SDSU's support for its National Guard and Reserve employees and students is admirable and serves as an example for other institutions of higher learning to emulate.

I join with all South Dakotans in expressing my gratitude to SDSU. We are all proud and thankful for their demonstrated commitment to their employees and students who serve the Nation in the National Guard and Reserve.

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES RECOVERY ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 29, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3824) to amend and reauthorize the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to provide greater results conserving and recovering listed species, and for other purposes:

Ms. LEE. Mr. Chairman, on September 29, 2005, I missed rollcall vote 506, the vote on final passage for H.R. 3824. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay." I was unable to take part in this vote because I was attending a constituent funeral.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 3824, which is a threat to the recovery of endangered species.

Mr. Chairman, the original Endangered Species Act was signed into law by President Nixon in 1973 with the goal of protecting species on the brink of extinction, preserving critical habitats from human development and exploitation, and safeguarding the diversity of our natural wildlife for future generations.

This bill would redefine the entire concept of the Endangered Species Act to protect the short term economic interests of western landowners and developers.

Instead of working to protect threatened or endangered species and their habitats for the benefit of everyone, the Federal Government would now be driving the extinction of countless species—and your tax dollars would be paying for it.

We've got to ask ourselves who really needs to be protected here?

Is it our planet, our future? Or is it the right of some developer to build a strip mall?

I urge my colleagues to vote against this cynical attempt to gut the endangered species act.

A PROCLAMATION THANKING
MATT SMITH FOR HIS SERVICE
TO OUR COUNTRY

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 6, 2005

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Matt Smith served in Iraq and is the recipient of numerous awards including the Meritorious Service Award, the Purple Heart, the Global War on Terrorism Medal, and the National Defense Service Medal; and

Whereas, Matt Smith is to be commended for the honor and bravery that he displayed while serving our Nation in this time of war; and

Whereas, Matt Smith has demonstrated a commitment to meet challenges with enthusiasm, confidence, and outstanding service;

Therefore, I join with the family, friends, and residents of the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in thanking Matt Smith for his service to our country and wishing him the best of luck in all his future endeavors. Your service has made us proud.

17TH ANNUAL DENTON COUNTY
FIREFIGHTERS MEMORIAL SERVICE

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 6, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the fallen men and women firefighters who selflessly dedicated their lives to our communities.

Each October, a grateful Nation honors its fallen fire heroes during the National Fire Prevention Week. Fire Prevention Week is a great opportunity to educate all citizens about the dangers of fire and the steps they can take to protect themselves. Each year, more than 4,200 Americans lose their lives to fire. That's more deaths by fire each year than all other natural disasters combined. National Fire Prevention Week has been observed since 1922 the week of October 9th. This marks the date of the Great Chicago Fire in 1871. In that tragic conflagration, more than 250 people were killed. 100,000 were left homeless, 17,400 structures were destroyed, and more than 2000 acres burned.

I want to thank Denton's First United Methodist Church for hosting a special service in honor of those who gave their lives for those of us residing in Denton County. The service and the procession to the Denton County Firefighters Memorial Park that concluded the memorial service truly honors these heroic men and women. This year marks the 17th Annual Memorial Service in Denton County.

I extend my condolences and appreciation to the families and the communities of these

fallen firefighters. This memorial service acts as a tribute to the brave men and women of America's fire service.

TRIBUTE TO THE VILLAGE OF
NELSONVILLE, NEW YORK

HON. SUE W. KELLY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 6, 2005

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the village of Nelsonville, New York, which this month celebrates its sesquicentennial. I extend my sincere congratulations to town officials, residents and supporters on this occasion, which symbolizes an accumulation of 150 years of hard work and diligence by a community.

On an early autumn day in October 1855, the village of Nelsonville was born and with it a quaint community founded on good will and hard work. Some say the essence of the village can be seen in the elaborate picture painted by the landscape of historical buildings on the village's timeless Main Street. This can be seen in the current Village Hall which, prior to 1955, housed the local the Fish and Fur Club for over half a century.

Nelsonville commemorates their 150th Anniversary this month with a parade which surely will prove memorable as local leaders, organizations and community members come together to remember an impressive history that has provided the building blocks for an promising future.

Undoubtedly, the success of Nelsonville could not have been realized without the support and kinship of the surrounding town of Philipstown and Putnam County. For years to come, Nelsonville will remain a great place to live following the lessons of the past and by continuing participation in camaraderie with surrounding communities.

There have been over 30 mayors since the village's inception. From Mayor Purdy in 1855 to Mayor Mitch Dul in 2005, the village has seen many challenges, but has always stayed on steady course. The village retains a timeless quality easily identifiable by those taking a walk down its streets. On behalf of the people of the 19th Congressional District of New York, I wish Nelsonville continued success and another 150 exceptional and prosperous years.

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED
SPECIES RECOVERY ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 29, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill. (H.R. 3824) to amend and reauthorize the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to provide greater results conserving and recovering listed species, and for other purposes:

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in opposition to the so-called "Threatened and Endangered Species Recovery Act," (TESRA).

The sponsors of TESRA claim that they want to "reform" the ESA because it's not helping enough threatened and endangered species recover. In reality, it is aimed at weakening, dismantling, and rendering unenforceable the Endangered Species Act, ESA.

The original Endangered Species Act was a bipartisan effort to protect our natural heritage. Yet today, as we consider how to update and modernize that legislation, we are presented not with a truly bipartisan bill, but a massive special interest giveaway that guts ESA despite a thirty year track record of success. A vote for the passage of TESRA is a vote to abdicate responsible environmental policy and to create a new form of corporate welfare.

Since the enactment of the Endangered Species Act in 1973, tens of millions of acres of land in the United States have been managed for conservation purposes. As a result, of the 1800 species protected under ESA, we have lost only 9 to extinction. That's a 99 percent success rate on extinction prevention.

TESRA's most fundamental change abandons the basic priority of the Endangered Species Act: the commitment to species recovery. The overarching goal of ESA is to bring species back from the brink of extinction to the point where they no longer need to be given special protection. TESRA alters that mission by effectively negating the goal of species recovery. TESRA specifically eliminates the requirement that the Federal Government attempt to restore species to healthy population levels.

Furthermore, under TESRA any species recovery plan the government might conceive would be non-binding. Had ESA had these guidelines in place since 1973, the recovery of many species, including the peregrine falcon and the American alligator, would have been almost inconceivable. In the case of the alligator, recovery was so successful that we are now even able to implement controlled farming of the restored population.

There are two areas of the bill which I found particularly problematic and sought to address through amendments. My first amendment would strike language from TESRA that would turn back the clock on the scientific determination of an endangered species. My second amendment would strike language from TESRA that creates a very dangerous precedent: setting up a system where the government pays people for obeying the law.

Rather than offer these separately on the floor, I am pleased to see their substance included in the bipartisan Miller-Boehlert substitute that we will be considering today.

The use of science is of special importance in the implementation of the species protection program. Rather than using the best available science for species protection, TESRA explicitly prohibits the government from using advanced, modern scientific tools like statistical modeling that we have at our disposal today and that assist us in the implementation of ESA.

By taking away these cutting edge tools, TESRA would make it exceedingly difficult to make determinations on the status of any species whose populations are small, isolated, and scattered. The result will be a weakened and limited scientific process in decisions made under the act, more obstacles and less protection. The substitute bill restores ESA's original approach to science, which is to use the best science available to help save and recover endangered species.