

territorial leaders to effectively impact those on the margins of American society. He loves the Salvation Army and is deeply committed to its mission.

Commissioner Gaither officially arrived at national headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia, on May 1, 2006. Prior to joining national headquarters, he worked for 4 years in London, England, where he was second-in-command of the worldwide organization and his wife Eva Gaither served as world secretary for women's ministries. The Gaithers have served individually and jointly in numerous leadership positions throughout the Army, including roles as pastors of Salvation Army corps, congregations, in Aliquippa, Erie, and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania as well as in Brooklyn, New York's Bedford-Stuyvesant. In addition, they have held various regional, national, and international leadership positions in business administration. The Gaithers met at the Salvation Army's School for Officer Training in Suffern, NY, and were commissioned as officers in 1964. They married in 1967 and have two children and two grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Commissioner Israel L. Gaither is the highest ranking African-American in the Salvation Army. He is an inspiration for young men and women, and I stand here to honor him today for his years of service to this Nation's and the world's needy.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE KA'U COAST PRESERVATION ACT

#### HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the proposed Ka'u Coast Preservation Act, a bill directing the National Park Service to assess the feasibility of designating coastal lands on the Ka'u Coast of the island of Hawai'i between Kapao Point and Kahuku Point as a unit of the National Park System.

In March 2005, I wrote to the National Park Service to ask that it conduct a reconnaissance survey of the Ka'u coast to make a preliminary evaluation of the unique natural resources of the area to determine its suitability for inclusion as a unit within our National Park Service.

The draft reconnaissance report providing an overview of the natural and cultural resources of the study area is currently in the final stages of review, but the draft I have reviewed concludes that "Based upon the significance of the resources in the study area, and the current integrity and intact condition of these resources, a preliminary finding of national significance and suitability can be concluded." The draft report goes on to recommend that Congress proceed with a full resource study of the area.

At present, the beautiful coastline of Ka'u is largely pristine: unspoiled, undeveloped, and uninhabited. It contains significant natural, geological, and archeological features. The northern part of the study area abuts Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park and contains a number of notable geological features, including a huge ancient lava tube known as the Great Crack, which the NPS expressed interest in acquiring in the past.

The study area includes both black and green (olivine) sand beaches as well as a

number of endangered and threatened species, most notably the endangered hawksbill turtle (half of the Hawaiian population of this rare sea turtle nests within the study area), the threatened green sea turtle, the endangered Hawaiian monk seal, the endangered Hawaiian hawk, native bees, the endangered and very rare Hawaiian orange-black damselfly (the largest population in the state), and a number of native endemic birds. Humpback whales and spinner dolphins frequent the area. The area also boasts some of the best remaining examples of native coastal vegetation in Hawai'i. Although the NPS was unable to conduct a full survey of marine resources, it is expected that the varied and undeveloped habitats in the study area support high levels of biodiversity.

Archeological resources reflecting ancient Hawaiian settlement in the study area includes the Puh'i'ula cave, dwelling complexes, heiau (religious shrines), walls, fishing and canoe houses or sheds, burial sites, petroglyphs water and salt collection sites, caves, and trails. The Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail runs through this area. The area is also remarkable for its magnificent viewsheds.

Ka'u is one the last unspoiled areas left in Hawai'i. It is, however, under tremendous development pressure, despite the fact that these coastal lands are subject to volcanic eruptions, seismic activity, tsunami, and other hazards. More earthquakes occur in the Ka'u area than anywhere in the State and the hazard risk level in the study area ranges from the highest (category 1) to between 3 and 6 for the balance of the study area. The outstanding resources of Ka'u deserve protection; development along the coast poses risks to these resources and potentially to human life.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill, and invite you to come to the island of Hawai'i to visit this special area. I know that if you do so, you will be convinced as I am of the vital importance of protecting these lands.

#### SUPPORT FOR THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF DEMOCRACY

#### HON. MARK E. SOUDER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the National League of Democracy (NLD) and all of those who languish in crushing servitude. On 27 September 1988, the NLD was founded by the forces of Democracy in Burma. The NLD was founded at what seemed like a turning point in Burmese history. After decades of military rule and dictatorship, the leaders of Burma announced that free elections would be held in 1990.

Led by Aung San Suu Kyi, the NLD won those elections with 60 percent of the vote and 83 percent of the parliamentary seats. Alas, the military never allowed a new government to form. Sadly, Liberty was crushed and the promise of that time has never been realized.

Today, Aung San Suu Kyi is under house arrest. Many other NLD members and other defenders of democracy are in prison, in exile, or in hiding. The brutal military dictatorship that very nearly did the right thing so many

years ago is still in power. They continue to brutalize the people of Burma in savage ways that we can hardly imagine.

International pressure is mounting, however. After turning a blind eye to Burma's actions Burma's ASEAN neighbors are distancing themselves from Burma. Last week at the United Nations, the First Lady of the United States Laura Bush held a forum on Burma. She urged the military leadership of Burma to release Aung San Suu Kyi and the adoption of a U.N. resolution condemning Burma's dictatorship.

And for the first time, Burma has been placed on the agenda of the United Nations Security Council. For those of us who have been active on Burmese issues for some time, this is truly a victory. On Friday, Ibrahim Gambari, U.N. Undersecretary General for Political Affairs, will report on the latest situation in Myanmar at the 15-member council. Getting a resolution through the Security Council will be no small task. Burma's stalwart ally China is ever ready to block any criticism of its neighbor.

The United Nations is not known for its tough stances on any issue. Time after time we have seen the U.N. shy away from condemnation of even the most egregious evil. I urge the U.N. to be firm. The United Nations Security Council must use this unmatched opportunity to defend the least among us.

In closing, I congratulate the NLD on their 18-year commitment to democracy. I hope they never give up their struggle for freedom. I will never abandon my commitment to them or the people of Burma.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE LEAD POISONING REDUCTION ACT

#### HON. LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 27, 2006*

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce today the Lead Poisoning Reduction Act, a bill that will tackle one of the most dangerous environmental hazards to our children's health—lead poisoning. America has made an important pledge to eliminate this problem by 2010, and it is critical that Congress give our communities the tools needed to eradicate lead dangers.

Despite the fact that lead poisoning is preventable, it continues to affect 434,000 American children every year, resulting in serious health problems ranging from brain damage and hearing loss to coma and death. We cannot stand by and watch our children continue to be exposed to toxins when we have the knowledge and tools to keep them healthy. In doing so, we rob them, and our communities, of their greatest potential.

Unfortunately, children are often most vulnerable to lead hazards in the places they ought to be the most safe—in their homes and in their childcare facilities. In 2003, the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control found that 14 percent of licensed childcare facilities had significant lead hazards. At facilities where the majority of children attending were African American, 30 percent were determined to pose serious risks of lead poisoning.