Rose passed away last week, but she was one of the founders of the National Association of Community Health Centers, founder of the National Consumer Health Organization, a member of many local groups and organizations, and the person most responsible, I think, for my being involved in public life, electoral politics.

I say thank you, Rose, and rest in peace.

HOPE FOR VISION

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, Hope for Vision was founded to assist individuals dealing with the loss of vision and to raise much-needed funding for scientific research on retinal degenerative and other blinding diseases so that future generations will not have to cope with this tragic issue.

I have known Carlos and Betty Lidsky, leaders in Hope for Vision, for many years, and their son Isaac, an attorney here in Washington, serves as the Chairman and President of Hope for Vision.

At the age of 12, Isaac was diagnosed with retinitis pigmentosa, a retinal degenerative disorder. However, this did not slow Isaac down. He attended New Walls School of the Arts in Miami before receiving his bachelor's and his law degree from Harvard University. While at Harvard, he met Dorothy, who has become a passionate advocate for the vision impaired.

On Saturday, September 8, this organization will hold an event in south Florida to ensure that this horrible condition receives the proper attention and research needed to find a cure. Their tenacity and courage in the face of such adversity and heartbreak is commendable. Inspired by their dedication and hard work, we are working towards a cure.

CREATING OFFICE OF CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Natural Resources be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 2107) to create the Office of Chief Financial Officer of the Government of the Virgin Islands, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the bill, as follows:

H.R. 2107

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS.

(a) APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Governor of the Virgin Islands shall appoint a Chief Financial Officer, with the advice and consent of the Legislature of the Virgin Islands, from the names on the list required under section 2(d). If the Governor has nominated a person for Chief Financial Officer but the Legislature of the Virgin Islands has not confirmed a nominee within 90 days after receiving the list pursuant to section 2(d), the Governor shall appoint from such list a Chief Financial Officer on an acting basis until the Legislature consents to a Chief Financial Officer.

(2) ACTING CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER.—If a Chief Financial Officer has not been appointed under paragraph (1) within 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Virgin Islands Chief Financial Officer Search Commission, by majority vote, shall appoint from the names on the list submitted under section 2(d), an Acting Chief Financial Officer to serve in that capacity until a Chief Financial Officer is appointed under the first sentence of paragraph (1). In either case, if the Acting Chief Financial Officer serves in an acting capacity for 180 consecutive days, without further action the Acting Chief Financial Officer shall become the Chief Financial Officer.

(b) TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Upon the appointment of a Chief Financial Officer under subsection (a), the functions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget established under the laws of the Virgin Islands shall be transferred to the Chief Financial Officer. All employees of the Office of Management and Budget become employees of the Office of the Chief Financial Officer.

(2) DOCUMENTS PROVIDED.—The heads of each department of the Government of the Virgin Islands, in particular the head of the Department of Finance of the Virgin Islands and the head of the Internal Revenue Bureau of the Virgin Islands shall provide all documents and information under the jurisdiction of that head that the Chief Financial Officer considers required to carry out his or her functions to the Chief Financial Officer.

(c) DUTIES OF CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER.—The duties of the Chief Financial Officer shall include the following:

(1) Assume the functions and authority of the office of the Office of Management and Budget established under the laws of the Virgin Islands as transferred under subsection (b).

(2) Develop a report on the financial status of the Government of the Virgin Islands not later than 6 months after appointment and quarterly thereafter. Such reports shall be available to the public and shall be submitted to—

(A) the Governor of the Virgin Islands;

(B) the legislature of the Virgin Islands;

(C) the Committee on Natural Resources in the House of Representatives; and

(D) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources in the Senate.

(3) Each year certify spending limits of the annual budget and whether or not the annual budget is balanced.

(4) Monitor operations of budget for compliance with spending limits, appropriations, and laws, and, in consultation with the Governor, direct adjustments where necessary.

(5) Develop standards for financial management, including inventory and contracting, for the government of the Virgin Islands in general and for each agency in conjunction with the agency head.

(6) Oversee all aspects of the implementation of the financial management system provided pursuant to section 3 to ensure the coordination, transparency, and networking of all agencies' financial, personnel, and budget functions.

(7) Provide technical staff to the Governor and legislature of the Virgin Islands for development of a deficit reduction and financial recovery plan.

(d) DEPUTY CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER.—Until the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the position of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget of the Virgin Islands shall—

(1) have the duties, salary (as specified in subsection (f)(3)), and other conditions of the Deputy Chief Financial Officer in lieu of the duties, salary, and other conditions of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget of the Virgin Islands as such functions existed before the appointment of the Chief Financial Officer; and

(2) assist the Chief Financial Officer in carrying out the duties of the Chief Financial Officer.

(e) CONDITIONS RELATED TO CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER.—

(1) TERM.—The Chief Financial Officer shall be appointed for a term of 5 years or until the adoption and ratification of a Constitution by the Virgin Islands, whichever occurs first.

(2) REMOVAL.—The Chief Financial Officer shall not be removed except for cause. An Acting Chief Financial Officer may be removed for cause or by a Chief Financial Officer appointed with the advice and consent of the Legislature of the Virgin Islands.

(3) REPLACEMENT.—If the Chief Financial Officer is unable to continue acting in that capacity due to removal, illness, death, or otherwise, another Chief Financial Officer shall be selected in accordance with subsection (a).

(4) SALARY.—The Chief Financial Officer shall be paid at a salary to be determined by the Governor of the Virgin Islands, except such rate may not be less than the highest rate of pay for a cabinet officer of the Government of the Virgin Islands or a Chief Financial Officer serving in any government or semi autonomous agency.

(f) CONDITIONS RELATED TO DEPUTY CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER.—

(1) TERM; REMOVAL.—The Deputy Chief Financial Officer shall serve at the pleasure of the Chief Financial Officer.

(2) REPLACEMENT.—If the Deputy Chief Financial Officer is unable to continue acting in that capacity due to removal, illness, death, or otherwise, another person shall be selected by the Governor of the Virgin Islands to serve as Deputy Chief Financial Officer.

(3) SALARY.—The Deputy Chief Financial Officer shall be paid at a salary to be determined by the Chief Financial Officer, except such rate may not be less than the rate of pay of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

(g) RESUMPTION OF FUNCTIONS.—On the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act or upon the adoption and ratification of a Constitution by the Virgin Islands, whichever occurs first, the functions of the Chief Financial Officer shall be transferred to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget of the Virgin Islands.

(h) SUNSET.—This section shall cease to have effect after the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a commission to be known as the ''Virgin Islands Chief Financial Officer Search Commission''.

(b) DUTY OF COMMISSION.—The Commission shall recommend to the Governor not less

than 3 candidates for nomination as Chief Financial Officer of the Virgin Islands. Each candidate must have demonstrated ability in general management of, knowledge of, and extensive practical experience at the highest levels of financial management in governmental or business entities and experience in the development, implementation, and operation of financial management systems. Candidates shall not have served in a policy making or unclassified position of the Government of the Virgin Islands in the 10 years immediately preceding appointment as Chief Financial Officer.

(c) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.—The Commission shall be composed of 9 members appointed not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act. Persons appointed as members must have recognized business, government, or financial expertise and experience, and shall be appointed as follows:

(A) 1 individual appointed by the Governor of the Virgin Islands.

(B) 1 individual appointed by the President of the Legislature of the Virgin Islands.

(C) 1 individual, who is an employee of the Government of the Virgin Islands, appointed by the Central Labor Council of the Virgin Islands.

(D) 1 individual appointed by the Chamber of Commerce of St. Thomas-St. John.

(E) 1 individual appointed by the Chamber of Commerce of St. Croix.

(F) 1 individual appointed by the President of the University of the Virgin Islands.

(G) 1 individual appointed by the Chief Judge of the Virgin Islands Supreme Court.

(H) 1 individual, who is a resident of St. John, jointly appointed by the At-Large Member of the Legislature of the Virgin Islands and the St. John administrator.

(I) 1 individual appointed by the Advocates for the Preservation of the Retirement System.

(2) TERMS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Each member shall be appointed for the life of the Commission.

(B) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the Commission shall be filled in the manner in which the original appointment was made. Any member appointed to fill a vacancy shall be appointed for the remainder of that term.

(3) BASIC PAY.—Members shall serve without pay.

(4) QUORUM.—Five members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum.

(5) CHAIRPERSON.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Chairperson of the Commission shall be determined by a majority vote of the members of the Commission.

(B) CHAIRPERSON PRO TEM.—Until the Commission elects a Chairperson under subparagraph (A), the Chairperson pro tem shall be the individual appointed under paragraph (1)(G).

(6) MEETINGS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall meet at the call of the Chairperson or the Chairperson pro tem.

(B) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 15 days after all members have been appointed under this subsection, the Commission shall have its initial meeting at the call of the Chairperson pro tem.

(7) GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT.—Members may not be current government employees, except for the member appointed under paragraph (1)(C).

(d) REPORT; RECOMMENDATIONS.—The Commission shall transmit a report to the Governor and the Natural Resources Committee of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate not later than 60 days after its first meeting. The report shall name the Commission's recommendations for candidates for nomination as Chief Financial Officer of the Virgin Islands.

(e) TERMINATION.—The Commission shall terminate 210 days after its first meeting.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

For the purposes of this Act, the following definitions apply:

(1) CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER.—In sections 1 and 2, the term ''Chief Financial Officer'' means a Chief Financial Officer or Acting Chief Financial Officer, as the case may be, appointed under section 1(a).

(2) COMMISSION.—The term ''Commission'' means the Virgin Islands Chief Financial Officer Search Commission established pursuant to section 2.

(3) GOVERNOR.—The term ''Governor'' means the Governor of the Virgin Islands.

(4) REMOVAL FOR CAUSE.—The term ''removal for cause'' means removal based upon misconduct, failure to meet job requirements, or any grounds that a reasonable person would find grounds for discharge.

SEC. 4. NO ABROGATION OF POWERS.

Nothing in this Act shall be construed to allow the Governor and Legislature of the Virgin Islands to dilute, delegate, or otherwise alter or weaken the powers and authority of the Office of Management and Budget established under the laws of the Virgin Islands.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COCOPAH LANDS ACT

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent for the immediate consideration in the House of the bill (H.R. 673) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to take lands in Yuma County, Arizona, into trust as part of the reservation of the Cocopah Indian Tribe, and for other purposes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the bill, as follows:

H.R. 673

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Cocopah Lands Act''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The reservation of the Cocopah Indian Tribe of Arizona is located in Yuma County, Arizona.

(2) That reservation was created by an Executive order signed by President Woodrow Wilson in 1917.

(3) That reservation is made up of 3 noncontiguous tracts of land.

(4) The Tribe inhabits all 3 parts of the reservation.

(5) The Tribe purchased the additional lands to provide infrastructure to housing areas, water, and economic development to tribal members.

(6) The current trust land base of the reservation is insufficient to provide such needs.

(7) The Tribe acquired 7 parcels of land contiguous to its present reservation lands in 1986, 1993, 1997, and 2005, and these parcels are currently classified as ''Indian Lands'' under Federal law.

(8) The acquired parcels shall not be taken into trust for gaming purposes.

(9) The best means of solving the Tribe's land and economic needs to its tribal members is to require the Secretary to take lands in Yuma County, Arizona, that are acquired by the Tribe into trust for the Tribe subject to the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

For the purpose of this Act, the following definitions apply:

(1) TRIBE.—The term ''Tribe'' means the Cocopah Indian Tribe of Arizona.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 4. LANDS TO BE TAKEN INTO TRUST.

(a) LANDS TO BE TAKEN INTO TRUST.—If the Tribe transfers title to the land described in subsection (b) to the Secretary, the Secretary shall take that land into trust for the benefit of the Tribe, if at the time of such transfer there are no adverse legal claims to such land, including outstanding liens, mortgages, or taxes owed.

(b) LAND DESCRIBED.—The land referred to in subsection (a) is described as follows:

(1) PARCEL 1 (SIBLEY PURCHASE 1986).—Lot 4 and the SW¼, of the NW¼, of Sec. 1, T. 10 S., R. 25 W., of the Gila and Salt River Base and Meridian, Yuma County, Arizona, except that portion of the SW¼, of the NW¼, of said Sec. 1, T. 10 S., R. 25 W., lying southeasterly of the north right-of-way line of the Bureau of Reclamation levee.

(2) PARCEL 2 (SIBLEY PURCHASE 1986).—Lot 1 and the SE¼, of the NE¼, of Sec. 2, T. 10 S., R. 25 W., of the Gila and Salt River Base and Meridian, Yuma County, Arizona.

(3) PARCEL 3 (MCDANIEL PURCHASE 1993).—That part of the E½, of the SE¼, lying south of the East Main Bureau of Reclamation Canal right of way in Sec. 30, T. 9 S., R. 23 W., of the Gila and Salt River Base and Meridian, Yuma County, Arizona.

(4) PARCEL 4 (HOLLAND PURCHASE 1997).—That portion of the NW¼, of the NE¼, of Sec. 31, T. 16 S., R 22 E., of the San Bernardino Base and Meridian, Yuma County, Arizona, lying north of the levee and Salinity Canal; except the north 220 feet.

(5) PARCEL 5 (HOLLAND PURCHASE 1997).—An easement over the easterly 15 feet of the north 220 feet of that portion of the NW¼, of the NE¼, of Sec. 31, T. 16 S., R. 22 E., of the San Bernardino Base and Meridian, Yuma County, Arizona, lying north of the levee and Salinity Canal for irrigation purposes.

(6) PARCEL 6 (POWERS PURCHASE 1997).—Lots 21, 24, and 25, Sec. 29, and Lots 16 and 17 and the N½, of the SW¼, of the SE¼, of Sec. 30, T. 16 S., R. 22 E., of the San Bernardino Meridian, Yuma County, Arizona, according to the dependent resurvey of the Bureau of Land Management, accepted December 9, 1960.

(7) PARCEL 7 (SPEED WAY PURCHASE 2005).—That portion of the W½ of the SE¼ of Sec. 30, T. 9 S., R. 23 W., of the Gila and Salt River Base and Meridian, Yuma County, Arizona, lying south and east of the East Main Canal; except the south 33 feet thereof; except one-third interest in and to all mineral rights, as reserved in the deed recorded in Docket 1461, page 600, records of Yuma County, Arizona.

(c) LANDS TO BE MADE PART OF THE RESERVATION.—Land taken into trust pursuant to subsection (a) shall be considered to be part of the Tribe's initial reservation.

(d) SERVICE AREA.—For the purposes of the delivery of Federal services to enrolled members of the Tribe, the Tribe's service area shall be Yuma County, Arizona.

(e) GAMING PROHIBITED.—Land taken into trust for the benefit of the Tribe under this Act shall not be used for gaming under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act.