

don't protect plants and animals but do put people at risk.

This process proceeds by such incremental steps that few take notice. But it continues as you read this. Consider regulations currently proposed by the Bureau of Land Management:

Two days after last November's general election, the bureau published in the Federal Register rule changes for law enforcement. These revisions are touted as merely stylistic, as only rephrasings couched in "plain English" to help ordinary citizens understand them. But actually, that's a deception. Under the guise of simplifying law, the bureau is pursuing vast extensions of its police powers.

The proposed regulations would criminalize thousands of minor offenses that previously were not deemed criminal. They would give bureau police unparalleled authority of arrest, search and seizure. They would extend federal enforcement to surrounding private properties. They would raise the maximum punishment for violations from \$1,000 to \$100,000 and authorize bureau agents to enforce not only their own rules but all other local, state and federal laws as well.

And they redefine guilt. No longer would ignorance of the law be an excuse. Instead, one could be declared criminally responsible for breaking a rule few ever heard of.

Thus, individuals could go to jail for violating "any regulation, authorization or order"—such as walking a dog in a recreation area without a leash, not wearing a seat belt, failing to display a state inspection sticker on one's car or entering "wilderness areas without a permit, where permits are required by BLM."

The bureau has set a March 7 deadline for receiving public comments on these provisions. And on March 20, the House Subcommittee on Parks and Public Lands will hold hearings on them.

Let's hope Congress can stop this power grab. Otherwise, those who hike in wilderness may discover the greatest dangers they face are neither bad weather nor grizzly bears but green police, and that their most essential survival tool is neither tent nor cook stove but a copy of the Federal Code of Regulations.

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#### IN TRIBUTE TO MORDECAI LEE

HON. THOMAS M. BARRETT

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 11, 1997*

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor and a privilege for me to pay tribute today to one of the most respected community leaders in my hometown of Milwaukee, WI: Mordecai Lee.

The name Mordecai Lee has long been associated with excellence and one of our highest standards of civic pride. Mordecai Lee is moving on from his position as executive director of the Milwaukee Jewish Council for Community Relations after 6 years of outstanding service to the people of Milwaukee.

Mr. Speaker, our communities and our country have always relied on the contributions of those individuals who have the ability to rise above and beyond the call of duty to make a difference in the lives of others, both personally and professionally. Mordecai Lee has demonstrated an unflinching and tireless commitment to the betterment of Milwaukee County, the State of Wisconsin, and the entire

Nation. With his steady guidance and strong leadership, Milwaukee's Jewish community has emerged as a powerful voice in Milwaukee.

We are surrounded by global conflicts, and the path to the peace is often a difficult road to travel. Yet we are constantly reminded of the necessity to pursue peace. Mr. Lee, with his dedication to the Middle East peace process, has been a voice of stability when many had doubts about advancing peace in the region and almost everyone had different approaches.

When someone leaves a post of importance, it is often said that his or her shoes will be hard to fill. But I can say without hesitation that, in Mordecai Lee's case, this is an understatement. In addition to his excellent work on behalf of Milwaukee's Jewish community, his influence has been felt far and wide—from the leaders of nations abroad, to college freshmen in Milwaukee.

Indeed, we need more people with his vision and energy to tackle the vast challenges we all face. Mr. Lee will continue his distinguished service to the people of Milwaukee as an assistant professor of governmental affairs at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's Division of Outreach and Continuing Education Extension. Mordecai Lee deserves our heartfelt thanks for his years of dedicated service as executive director of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation and our best wishes for the future.

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JACQUELINE ALEX

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 11, 1997*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jacqueline Alex of Oregon, OH, in my district. Mrs. Alex is the National Catholic War Veterans Auxiliary president, and is being honored for her work with a testimonial dinner on March 8, 1997.

Jackie and her husband, John, were married in 1947. Together they raised two sons, James and John. Her husband passed away only 10 years later, in 1957. A year later, Jackie joined the Toledo Logsdon—Walla Catholic War Veterans Post 639 Auxiliary, serving the auxiliary in every capacity. She was elected auxiliary president several times through those years, and in 1971 Jackie was named president of the Department of Ohio's Auxiliary. She began her service with the National Department in 1985, and served as the president of the 1995 Auxiliary National Convention.

Her tireless efforts have been recognized by the organization, and Mrs. Alex has been awarded numerous honors: the National Auxiliary President's Gold Medal Award For Outstanding Service; the Ohio Auxiliary President's Award; the Ann Senft Award For Meritorious Service to the Auxiliary; the National Auxiliary's St. Agnes Medal; Department of Ohio Auxiliary 1988 Woman of the Year; and a citation for meritorious service from the Chapel of Four Chaplains in Gettysburg.

Our Nation pays tribute to its veterans in various ways, but often overlooked in such recognition is the role of women, wives, and families who served here on the homefront. For whether they bought war bonds, planted a

victory garden, worked in a munitions factory, went to work to support a family, or played both mother and father to a family growing up, they kept our Nation running in times of war. Their contributions created a strong backup system to those engaged in combat and in service to our Nation. Their ideals of service are upheld through their auxiliaries, which are the sinew that binds a veterans post together.

For nearly 40 years, Jacqueline Alex has served our Nation and its veterans honorably. I am pleased to join with her sons, grandchildren, colleagues, and friends in a deep and heartfelt salute of gratitude.

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#### HONORABLE MENTION AWARDED BY READING IS FUNDAMENTAL

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 11, 1997*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Abigail Bauman, a 7-year-old second grader in Sciota, PA. Abigail is a student at Hamilton Elementary in Sciota.

Abigail was one of 41 honorable mentions in this year's poster contest sponsored by Reading is Fundamental [RIF]. Abigail's poster was chosen out of over 300,000 entries.

The theme of this year's National Poster Contest was "Read! Imagine!" Abigail's poster showed a tremendous effort to display this message to the youth of America. Her efforts in this endeavor earned her a commemorative certificate along with a dictionary and gift books.

In this year's State of the Union Address, President Clinton touched on the importance of literacy in America. Teaching children to read at a young age, and getting them interested in books is fundamental to improving literacy in the United States. Using posters as a tool to achieve this is a creative vehicle to do so, avidly conveyed through Abigail's drawing.

It is essential for our children to read and love books if they are to compete, as well as excel in tomorrow's world. The key to the high paying jobs and opportunities of tomorrow is for each and every American citizen to be able to read.

Abigail's colorful poster helps to make reading more fun and interesting for elementary school children. I congratulate her on using art to communicate such an important message.

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#### HONORING SUSAN RICHTER

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 11, 1997*

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, every day it seems as if we pick up a newspaper or turn on the evening news and hear about the troubles of our young people. Critics argue they are disengaged with school, disinterested in their communities, and disinclined to become productive citizens of our country.

Not everyone agrees with this dismal view of our Nation's youth. Each year the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its Ladies Auxiliary sponsor the Voice of Democracy audio-essay scholarship program. This