

"In addition to having fun," Lais continues, "you'll have the opportunity to learn about a variety of topics, including the history and ecology of the areas you travel. And, since Wilderness Inquiry strives to include a diverse group of participants—including persons with disabilities—it's likely that you'll learn a bit about other people—and yourself—in the process."

With the signing of a memorandum of understanding [MOU] between Wilderness Inquiry and the Bureau of Land Management, the National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Reclamation, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, more people will have the wealth of opportunities observed as our American experience and legacy. Wilderness Inquiry's expertise in service delivery will surely help the agencies achieve the goal of providing outdoor recreation programs and services that are accessible to all Americans. And Wilderness Inquiry's expertise is readily apparent: more than half of the people Wilderness Inquiry serve have physical, cognitive or emotional disabilities. Indeed, when a person with a disability calls Wilderness Inquiry and expresses a desire to experience the outdoors, Greg Lais and his talented staff figure out how to do it—not why it can't and shouldn't be done.

Wilderness Inquiry's program focus of integrating people from diverse backgrounds and ability levels has proven effective at fostering dignity, independence, and social integration. A lot of positive steps have already been taken. In 1991 Wilderness Inquiry completed a study on behalf of the National Council on Disability to determine the ability of people with disabilities to enjoy wilderness. That study came forward with a number of recommendations, many of which are currently being implemented. These includes suggestions and programs for training Federal employees, guidelines for policy implementation, and recommendations for service providers.

But much more remains to be done, and that is what this special agreement between Wilderness Inquiry and the Federal land managers is focused upon. It signals a Federal agency commitment to making our public lands accessible so that all Americans appreciate our rich natural and cultural heritage. The benefits to all Americans will be great. Customers will be better served and more satisfied, awareness of our great outdoors will be enhanced, and we will be on the road to achieving equal access to the comprehensive civil rights for persons with disabilities included in the Americans With Disabilities Act.

That is why I rise today to pay tribute to Greg Lais, a person who embodies the spirit of serving the public that makes this Minnesotans such a special person. His organization is doing good work, and for that I believe he deserves the respect and thanks of this House, this Congress, and the American people.

IN HONOR OF GRANT A. KNISELY
ON HIS ATTAINMENT OF EAGLE
SCOUT

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 1997

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Grant Knisely of Bay Village, OH, who will be honored for his attainment of Eagle Scout.

The attainment of Eagle Scout is a high and rare honor requiring years of dedication to self-improvement, hard work, and the community. Each Eagle Scout must earn 21 merit badges, 12 of which are required, including badges in: lifesaving; first aid; citizenship in the community; citizenship in the Nation; citizenship in the world; personal management of time and money; family life, environmental science; and camping.

In addition to acquiring and proving proficiency in those and other skills, an Eagle scout must hold leadership positions within the troop where he learns to earn the respect and hear the criticism of those he leads.

The Eagle Scout must live by the Scouting Law, which holds that he must be: trustworthy, loyal, brave, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, clean, and reverent.

And the Eagle Scout must complete an Eagle Project, which he must plan, finance, and evaluate on his own. It is no wonder that only 2 percent of all boys entering scouting achieve this rank.

My fellow colleagues, let us recognize and praise Grant for his achievement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 1997

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and unable to vote on rollcall vote Nos. 566 and 567. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall No. 566, on ordering the previous question to House Resolution 288, and "no" on rollcall No. 567, on agreeing to House Resolution 288. I ask unanimous consent to have this statement appear in the appropriate place in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

A TRIBUTE TO THOMAS J.
MURRAY

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 1997

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, one of my more remarkable constituents, Thomas J. Murray of Walden, NY, is going to be honored by the Walden Rotary Club in a few weeks for a lifetime of devotion to his community and his family. I would like to take this opportunity to share his life story with our colleagues so that they can join us in saluting an outstanding American citizen.

Tom Murray was born on August 3, 1914, in the town of Newburgh on a family homestead

populated not only by his parents, but also by his three siblings, Dorothy, Anna, and Jack, by aunts, uncles, cousins, and other relatives. There were many adults interested in the future of young Tom who made certain the young man was raised on the straight and narrow. Tom was a student in the Newburgh school system and a graduate of Newburgh Free Academy.

In World War II, Tom was drafted into the service, and served in the 20th Air Force 58th Bomb Group as an engineer and a rear gunner on a B-29 aircraft. The 58th Bomb Group was one of the outstanding combat groups of the Second World War, and Tom was instrumental as an executive board member in keeping their annual reunion running smoothly for over 40 years. To honor those who served in the Army Air Corp, the group commissioned an original oil painting of the B-29 which now is on display at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, the Naval Academy at Annapolis, the Air Force Academy in Colorado, and at the Air and Space Museum right down the street from the Capitol.

In 1942, Tom married the former Helen Alice Romash, now deceased. Helen was from Walden, NY, about 7 miles west of Tom's home in the town of Newburgh. The young couple settled in Walden where Tom remains until this day, even after the passing of Helen a few years ago. Tom and Helen had two lovely children, Patricia and Dennis.

When World War II ended, Tom went to work for the DuPont Chemical Co. in Newburgh. In the mid-1960's, when DuPont moved their plant to South Carolina, Tom went along to help set up the new plant down south. However, he refused to give up his Walden home and returned to check his home and to visit family and friends quite often during his 1 year in South Carolina. Tom finally decided to come back home to Walden once and for all.

Tom is the personification of the community activist. A long time parishioner at Most Precious Blood Catholic Church, he served for many years as an usher and was an important component in the successful efforts to raise building funds for the parochial school.

Tom also served as chairman of the March of Dimes for the town of Montgomery, of which Walden is a part, and was in charge of the food distribution program for seniors and low-income families.

Tom has also been a mainstay in the Walden Volunteer Fire Department for many years. He has served as an on-the-line fireman and as a fire policeman.

He has served as a member of the planning committee, and thus played a major role in the planned growth of the village of Walden, a concept he has always supported.

Tom is known in his home community and throughout his home County of Orange as "Mr. Republican." He has never wavered in his support of Republican causes, and is known for his outspoken honesty. He recently celebrated his 30th anniversary as a Republican committeeman representing Election District No. 8, and from 1982 until he voluntarily stepped down in September of this year having served as chairman of the Republican Committee of the Town of Montgomery.

Mr. Speaker, I have always considered it an honor to consider Tom Murray as a friend. Throughout his remarkable career, he is an individual who can always be counted upon for honest answers, penetrating questions, and