

decrease in overall forest diversity. Increased forest volume and denser canopies cause more rain and snow to evaporate into the atmosphere before reaching the forest floor. That evaporation leads to a decrease in available water supplies for threatened and endangered species, drinking water and agricultural supplies.

Insect outbreaks and large, intense fires are becoming more common and more severe on these dense, homogeneous forests. Currently, 20–30 million acres of National Forests are susceptible to catastrophic wildfires. As suburban populations migrate further away from the cities, forest fires consume more property and, tragically, more lives. Those fires also cause serious air and water quality problems. In the wake of destructive fires, erosion and flooding contribute to the degradation of mountain streams, and ultimately, to our water supplies.

Mr. Speaker, the health and capacity of forests is directly related to the volume of timber harvested. Without harvesting, thinning or prescribed burns, timber inventory accumulates to the point where growth is impeded, and stands become susceptible to wildfires, beetle infestations and disease. Timber harvests add valuable and essential resources to the economy while reducing the potential for catastrophic fires by eliminating dangerously high levels of fuels. While many advocate the use of prescribed fires, without the complement of timber harvests, even those fires may have detrimental side effects. For example, prescribed burns often destroy economically viable and renewable resources while violating air quality and visibility standards.

In recent times, the U.S. Forest Service has shifted away from their mission of multiple uses and sustained yield. Competing public interests push the Forest Service to a management style motivated not by sound policy, but by fear of special interest backlash. Management, it seems, is controlled not by what is best for the forest, but by what interest group protests the loudest. Meanwhile, timber budgets and timber sales decline and administrative costs escalate. Directing funds away from timber budgets negates Forest Management plans, undermines public input into the process, and harms the forest ecosystem. Such impediments to the Forest Service mission have resulted in a de facto policy of reduced management, increased risk of wildfires, and deteriorating forest health.

Better national forest timber programs are essential to the proper stewardship of America's forests and to the health, condition and integrity of the environment. Accordingly, I strongly urge my colleagues and the Chief of the U.S. Forest Service to support proper harvest management tools to ensure better forest health throughout the country. Moreover, I urge the Congress to support the Rocky Mountain Regional Forester's strategy to reverse the decline of forest management programs and to reach a more effective program level by the year 2000. Finally, I implore all of my colleagues in the House of Representatives to support Congressional efforts to improve efficiency, effectiveness, and accountability in the management of our national forests.

TRIBUTE TO DR. MONROE D.
SENER

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 1998

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, for many years Dr. Monroe D. Senter has been a highly respected member of the Knoxville community. A few days ago, Dr. Senter celebrated his 100th birthday. On this occasion, I would like to call his career and many accomplishments to the attention of my colleagues and readers of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Dr. Senter was born on February 21, 1898, in Knoxville, Tennessee. I am told that as a young man he walked nearly ten miles each day to attend high school. He was president of his class, played football, and graduated as Valedictorian in 1919.

Dr. Senter went on to study at Knoxville College and later earned his Masters Degree from the University of Minnesota. In 1966 he was conferred with an honorary Doctor of Laws Degree from Knoxville College.

In his long career as an educator, Dr. Senter served as a teacher at College High School and Austin High School and was the Principal of Beardsley Junior High School for over 30 years. In addition, for two years he acted as Director of Education and Guidance for the U.S. Department of Education in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Senter has been President of the Knoxville Education Association, the East Tennessee Education Association, the Tennessee Education Association, the Tennessee State Teachers Association, and the American Teachers Central Division.

However, Dr. Senter's contributions are not only in the realm of education. He has been involved in a long list of community organizations including the Knoxville College Trustee Board, the Y.M.C.A., the National Urban League, the Kiwanis Club, and his church, the Lennon Seney United Methodist Church.

The citizens of Knoxville certainly owe a debt of gratitude to Dr. Senter for his many years of service and dedication to the community.

The world would be a much better place if we had more men like Dr. Monroe Senter.

A SEASON FOR NONVIOLENCE

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 1998

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give my support to "A Season for Nonviolence", an international grassroots movement in commemoration of the 50th and 30th anniversaries of the assassinations of Mahatma Mohandas K. Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr.

"A Season for Nonviolence" envisions a better world for all human beings. This movement's actions are based on values firmly rooted in our society's diverse beliefs and traditions. To this end, "Gandhi/King: A Season for Nonviolence" applies its efforts and resources to identifying and bringing into full public focus the rich spectrum of grassroots

projects and programs by individuals and organizations who are promoting a culture of peace.

During the period between January 30, 1998 and April 4, 1998 groups throughout the world will sponsor projects and programs to create greater awareness and consciousness of the principles and practices of nonviolence, including symposia on interfaith and inter-racial healing; days of dialogue, prayer and meditation; artistic and cultural events; essay contests and special activities for children.

In my home city of Chicago, many groups are working to focus the hearts and minds of our citizens on nonviolence in recognition and celebration of "A Season for Nonviolence."

I commend the efforts of all of the groups and individuals in Chicago and across America who are dedicating their time and resources to this noble goal. I am very pleased and honored to recognize them today.

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE LAST
SUNDAY IN FEBRUARY AS A
NATIONAL DAY OF CARING

HON. DAVID L. HOBSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 1998

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to commemorate the last Sunday in February as a National Day of Caring. This day is set aside for communities to show concern for those among them who are homeless and to call attention to the additive effect of individuals in alleviating the suffering of people in need. Since 1991, residents of Ohio's Miami Valley have come together and offered a variety of ways to serve those less fortunate on the Day of Caring. My colleague, Representative TONY HALL, and I personally have been long-time participants and co-chairmen of this important day. I am proud to have had the opportunity on five occasions to join in by cooking pancakes at the annual Day of Caring Kickoff Breakfast alongside other concerned Miami Valley residents.

Over the past seven years, the Day of Caring has been a tremendous success. Thousands of area residents have participated. In all, over \$110,000 has been raised for donations to area organizations that serve the needy. Additionally, The Day of Caring provides an opportunity to acknowledge those who combat the problems that plague the hungry and the homeless. It promotes many of the area organizations whose primary mission is to address the needs of those less fortunate. Local affiliations of organizations such as the United Way, Hospice, Aim for the Handicapped, the Red Cross, and Habitat for Humanity individually sponsor events. Volunteers from the Franciscan Medical Center, The Good Neighbor House, The Girl Scout Council, and the Mad River Lion's Club also participate. The Day of Caring truly celebrates the spirit of volunteerism that is alive and well in the Miami Valley.

This past Sunday, February 22, 1998, was this year's Day of Caring. Nearly 1,000 volunteers kicked off the day with the Day of Caring Pancake Brunch at seventeen different locations in the Miami Valley. Two locations offered over 500 free brunches for the hungry and homeless. Fifteen sites served over 7,000

pancake and sausage breakfasts in an annual fundraising effort. Congregations of all denominations and organizations participated in raising funds this year for the Emergency Housing Coalition and the Hunger Coalition.

The factors that contribute to homelessness, such as joblessness, financial distress, chemical dependency, mental illness, and domestic violence are immensely complicated. Concerns about providing adequate health care and education for those in need weigh heavily on the minds of many. While these problems will not be solved quickly or easily, The Day of Caring highlights that a ground-swell of concern by our communities really can make a difference. The dream of the first Day of Caring Committee was to bring communities together under the common thread of caring and giving of time, talent, and support. It is certainly realized every year on the last Sunday in February in the Miami Valley. I would be wonderful if other communities might also follow the Miami Valley's lead and participate in their own local activities next year on the Day of Caring.

TRIBUTE TO MELVA BUCKSBAUM

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 1998

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the invaluable contributions of Mrs. Melva Bucksbaum. Mrs. Bucksbaum has distinguished herself as a strong supporter of the arts and through her numerous accomplishments has earned the honor of being recognized at the Jewish Museum's "Festa do Brazil", a masked ball in celebration of Purim.

Melva has promoted art throughout the United States and Israel, with a particular dedication to contemporary art and artists. Her generosity toward The Jewish Museum's Legacy Campaigns helped make possible the Museum's expansion and renovation, as well as the creation of a vital endowment fund.

In addition to sitting on the Boards of the Jewish Museum and the Des Moines Art Center, Mrs. Bucksbaum serves with a number of other distinguished institutions: the Graduate School of Design, Harvard University; the International Committee of the Tate Museum, London; the Whitney Museum; American Friends of Israel Museum; Save Venice; the Independent Curator's Association; the Kennedy Center's National Committee for the Performing Arts and the International Council of the Museum of Modern Art. Since 1995, Mrs. Bucksbaum has actively managed the Martin Bucksbaum Family Foundation, which is listed as one of the founders of the United States Holocaust Museum.

Mr. Speaker, on March 4, Melva will be recognized by the Jewish Museum for her years of community service as this year's Purim Ball honoree. It is an honor and a pleasure for me to join the Museum in honoring Melva Bucksbaum on this very special occasion.

FOREST HEALTH AND
MANAGEMENT

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 1998

Mr. SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, each fall, scores of people travel to the high country to witness the changing colors of Colorado's aspen trees. The changing leaves symbolize our state's diverse, scenic environment as well as its thriving economy. Sadly, a recent study by the Club 20 Research Foundation concludes that Colorado's aspen are at a risk due to years of mismanagement by the federal government.

Club 20 was founded in 1953 by various individuals, counties, communities, businesses and associations in Western Colorado. This grass roots organization follows a broad range of issues and provides a valuable forum for considering the many complex and controversial issues facing our state. Club 20 exemplifies local involvement aimed at providing educational, environmental and economic benefits to our state. I applaud their efforts and their research and commend my colleagues to consider Club 20's findings.

James Hubbard, Colorado's State Forester, warns that if the Forest Service continues to manage as they do presently, most of Colorado's aspen trees will disappear within the next forty to fifty years. According to the Forest Service, the average age of aspen in Western Colorado is between 90 and 110 years, well beyond the point at which they mature and begin to deteriorate. Unless the Forest Service adopts an aggressive management regime designed to restore the health of Colorado's aspen trees, our aspen stands will be lost due to disease, insect infestation and decay.

Congress directed the Forest Service to manage forest lands for multiple use and sustained yields. Today, Forest Service practices show a disturbing trend towards a lack of active management. Unfortunately, those practices seem to be driven not by what is best for the forest, but by what group protests the loudest. That dynamic thwarts good policy and prohibits resource management.

The federal government, which controls more than 70% of the land on Colorado's Western Slope, has neglected to manage for the health of our forests. Their neglect is unforgivable given the consensus among foresters that, without active management, aspen trees die off and fail to regenerate.

The Forest Service and the Department of Interior advocate drastic increases in the use of prescribed burns as a management tool. While some advocate prescribed burns as a "natural" alternative to timber management, even proponents concede that prescribed burns fail to regenerate aspen stands, which do not burn easily. Moreover, prescribed burns have serious detrimental effects on air and water quality.

Selective timber harvesting provides an effective alternative to prescribed burns. Small, patch-work timber cuts facilitate the regeneration of aspen stands, provide economic benefits to the state, and enhance wildlife habitat without detrimental effects on air and water quality. Selective cuts of less than 40 acres allow for the regeneration of aspen trees with-

out replanting. Responsible, well-planned cuts diversify forest ecosystems while leaving many large, standing aspens, and providing valuable habitat for wildlife, including many threatened and endangered species.

Timber management requires access to stands in need of regeneration. Unfortunately, the Clinton Administration advocates a "no access" policy to a large portion of our public lands. Well over 34 million acres of our public lands could be off-limits to access for recreation and management under the Administration's proposed forest transportation policy. That decline is particularly disturbing in light of the Clinton Administration's plans to sever a vital link between local communities and their forests by discontinuing timber-based revenues for schools and roads in favor of a formula developed by the federal government.

There are more aspen trees in Colorado than any other state. Aspen are symbolic of the changing seasons in a state that prides itself on a strong economy, a good quality of life, and an appreciation for the out-of-doors. National forests in Colorado account for not only the production of timber but for a large part of the state's economic benefit from recreation and tourism.

The Forest Service's de facto policy of reducing harvests, increasing the risk of catastrophic wildfires, and deteriorating forest health is unacceptable. It is time for the Forest Service to manage the forests as Congress directed it to for multiple use and sustained yields. Such a policy is best for the health of our forests and for the vitality of our state.

Mr. Speaker, I am working closely with my colleagues on the House Resources Committee and the Subcommittee on Forests and Forests Health to ensure that the Forest Service and the Administration hear Colorado's message loud and clear. On February 25th, the subcommittee conducted oversight hearings on the Administration's roadless area moratorium. There, we considered testimony from county commissioners, forestry experts and Forest Service officials on the issue of access to public lands. On March 26th, we will hold another hearing before the House Resources, Budget and Appropriations Committees into the operations, budgeting and management of the Forest Service. There, with my colleagues, I hope to examine better management alternatives and push for positive change. Proper management of our national forests can provide habitat for wildlife as well as recreational and economic resources for America.

STATEMENT OF LYNN EXE

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 1998

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, last year in my Congressional Office in Bridgewater, Massachusetts, I met with an eloquent and dedicated patriot, Lynn Exe, who described to me her disappointment at the way in which the Fleet Reserve Association dealt with her insurance situation. At her request, I am entering into the RECORD her description of her objection, and her invitation to the FRA to respond. I do so as Mrs. Exe's Representative in the House, who believes that she as a