

personally have led efforts to protect whales from commercial hunting and to protect African elephants from the deadly effect of the international ivory trade. I have also been in the forefront in bringing greater awareness to the linkages between refugees, world hunger, and national security to environmental degradation. In addition, if we do not assist in the survival of indigenous and tribal people, their wealth of traditional knowledge and their important habitats will no longer be available for the rest of mankind.

Earth Day is a successful incentive for ongoing environmental education, action, and change. Earth Day activities address worldwide environmental concerns and offer opportunities for individuals and communities to focus on their local environmental problems. As you may know, along with several of my colleagues, I introduced H.R. 1256, which was approved by Congress to authorize the purchase of Sterling Forest. Added to existing parks, this purchase created a 15,000 acre area of greenery just 40 miles north of New York City. I am pleased to state that we have also received an additional \$8.5 million funding for this important project. Along with Rep. Sue Kelly, I have requested funding for the Hudson Valley national heritage area, which would help preserve the history, culture, and traditions of our beautiful region. I am also proud to note that my 20th district of New York is home to the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, one of the country's leading climate study institutions.

Earth Day is a powerful catalyst for people to make a difference toward a clean, healthy, prosperous future. We must not continue with the lax attitude that someone else will clean up after us. We need to take care of our world today. I cannot think of a better day to commit to this than today, on Earth Day. Let us salute all of the people who observe Earth Day, in all ways, large or small.

REMARKS ON THE .08 BAC
STANDARD

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 1998

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with my colleagues an excerpt from the newsletter of the Conneaut Cellars Winery in Conneaut Lake, Pennsylvania. It was written by Mr. Joal Wolf, who is the proprietor of the winery. I believe this text eloquently articulates the arguments against the national .08 standard.

Recently neo-prohibitionists, social Dogooders, and short-sighted legislators (all in the business to scare you and make numbers look the worst possible) started their propaganda with nastier attacks due to the lack of attention in public. These attacks are direct at drinkers in general and unfortunately not at abusers and drunk drivers. They would like to duck the new reality, punish responsible drinkers, and blackmail states and local jurisdictions by withholding state highway funds (ISTEA) for not accepting a Blood Alcohol (BAC) level of 0.8%.

Decades of government data show that the number one cause of drunk driving incidents is the alcohol abuser who drinks excessively and then drives. Yet the proposed legislation inexplicably ignores this reckless menace

and instead calls for laws that would make it illegal for a 120 lb. woman to drive after drinking two glasses of wine within two hours. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the average BAC among fatally injured drunk drivers is 0.18%, and more than 80% of these drivers have at least 0.14% BAC. Federal government statistics show a very small percentage, not enough for casual effects, of accidents are caused by people with between 0.08 to 0.10% BAC. Fewer than 1.0% of fatalities involve drinking drivers (not drunks) with BAC under 0.10%.

Drunk driving versus drinking and driving—why bother with semantics when highway carnage is at stake? The real problem is the act of driving drunk. The crime should be when your ability is truly impaired, whether it is alcohol, lack of sleep, anxiety, anger, illegal drugs, and so forth.

IN MEMORY OF THE HONORABLE
JAMES R. STRONG

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 1998

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I wish to take a moment to speak about a man of distinguished civil service and professional integrity. The Honorable James R. "Jim" Strong, former Missouri State Representative and State Senator, recently passed away at the age of 77.

A native of Marshfield, MO, and a lifelong resident of the Jefferson City, MO, area, Strong graduated from Jefferson City High School in 1939. After studying at Jefferson City Junior College, Strong served in the United States Navy and was aboard the USS Phoenix at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. He served in the South Pacific for the remainder of World War II.

After the war, Jim Strong became the co-founder of Strong Brothers Millwork and Lumber Company, and later co-owned other lumber companies. He also was involved in office and commercial real estate rental and was a cattle farmer for many years. He served on the Jefferson City Council from 1969 to 1972, and was elected to the Missouri House of Representatives in 1973. In 1982, Strong was elected to the Missouri Senate, and he was re-elected in 1986. He retired from public service in 1990.

In addition to his contributions as a public servant, Jim Strong participated in many community activities. He was a member and elder of the First Presbyterian Church and also held memberships or offices in the VFW Post 1003, American Legion Post 5, Pearl Harbor Survivors Association, Cole County Fair Association, Cole County Fair and Horse Show, Salvation Army Advisory Board, Jefferson City Chamber of Commerce, Jefferson City Jay Booster Club, Cole County Historical Society, Capital City Council of the Arts, Memorial Community Hospital Board of Governors, St. Mary's Health Center Advisory Board, Cole County Republican Club, Pachyderm Club, Conservation Federation of Missouri, Cole County Association for Mental Health, Cole County Volunteer Fire Department, Jefferson City United Way, Cole County Extension Service, Lions Club, Jefferson City Rotary Club, Jefferson City Jaycees, Jaycee Cole County Fair Association, Mayor's Bond Issue Advisory

Board, and Jefferson City Planning and Zoning Committee.

Jim is survived by his wife, Sue, one son, two daughters, two sisters, one brother, eight grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Jim Strong was a true gentleman, and he displayed honesty and integrity throughout his public service career. I am certain that the Members of the House will join me in paying tribute to the fine Missouri legislator.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SCOTT
JOHNSON, MICHAEL WALSH,
LINDA COLEMAN, MATTHEW
ETHEN, AND DIANE JACKSON

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 1998

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Scott Johnson, Michael Walsh, Linda Coleman, Matthew Ethen, and Diane Jackson for being honored with the 1998 Excellence In Teaching Awards. These exceptional educators were honored for their unique contributions to the betterment of education.

Scott Johnson is a third grade teacher at Fresno Unified School District's Aynesworth Elementary School. He has been teaching for eighteen years. He has also taught fourth, sixth, and second grade classes. Scott has been in charge of the reading lab, E.S.L. teaching lab, and was a resource teacher for 6 years. As a member of the Fresno Zoological Society, he has volunteered for the past eight years in various fund-raising events. He has performed with the Fresno Children's Playhouse, bringing live theater to Fresno students. He has actively worked with his church's Children's Ministry and has been listed in the California State Department of Education's List of Exemplary Language Arts Teachers.

Michael Walsh is currently a sixth grade teacher at Fresno Unified School District's Roeding Elementary School. During his career, Michael Walsh has been a teacher at Rowell Elementary School, Slater Elementary School, and on special assignment at the Discovery Center. He has also served as a Teacher/Energy Coordinator at Easterby Elementary School, Elementary Science Specialist For the Fresno Unified School District, and Assistant Energy Coordinator for the Fresno Unified School District. He has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Arizona State University and has studied at California State University, Fresno, the University of California at Berkeley and Fresno Pacific College. Michael Walsh is also the author of the work titled "Science Education."

Linda Coleman is currently teaching at Fresno Unified School District's Yosemite Middle School. During her 25 years of teaching, Linda Coleman has served as a writing consultant, a teacher of physical education, and a teacher of language arts & science. Additionally, she is a coach for both volleyball and track and field at Yosemite Middle School. She received both her Bachelor of Science degree and teaching credential from California State University, Fresno and is an active volunteer in the community. Her volunteer activities include authoring Yosemite's first technology plan, member

of the School Improvement Plan Committee, Language Arts Representative, and WASA member of the Superintendents Advisory Committee.

Matthew C. Ethen is currently a Social Studies Teacher at Fresno Unified School District's Edison High School. Matthew Ethen has an extensive Military Background. He is a Commissioned Second Lieutenant in the Army ROTC and an Adjutant to the HHD 818th Transportation Battalion, where he was responsible for the training and welfare of 50 Army Reserves. He has also served as an Executive Officer, Captain, and Operations Officer. Outside his military service, he has served as a tutor, an assistant to a university professor, and a student teacher. Other responsibilities of his have included acting as an Educational Services Assistant for the Fresno Bee and an Educational Consultant for West Publishing Company. He has taught at Edison High School since 1991. Matthew Ethen earned his Bachelor of Science Degree at St. Cloud University and his teaching credential from California State University, Fresno.

Diane Jackson is currently the Principal of Fresno Unified School District's Bullard T.A.L.E.N.T. Elementary School. During her teaching career, Diane Jackson was a Language Arts Teacher at Orcutt Junior High in Santa Maria, a Resource Specialist at Fitch Middle School of Monterey, a Reading Specialist at Seaside High School of Monterey, and an instructor at Chapman University. Her administrative experience began in 1981 when she took on the position of Curriculum Coordinator for the Monterey Peninsula Unified School District. She moved on to become Elementary Principle of Crumpton Elementary School in Monterey from 1986-1989, Elementary Principal of Indianola Elementary School in Selma from 1989-1993, and a K-8 Principal in Coarsegold, California from 1993-1996. Diane Jackson earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in English at the University of California at Santa Barbara and a Master of Arts degree from California State University, San Jose.

Mr. Speaker, it is with greater honor that I congratulate Scott Johnson, Michael Walsh, Linda Coleman, Matthew Ethen, and Diane Jackson for being recognized with the 1998 Excellence in Teaching Awards. Their devotion and care for education serves as a model for all individuals involved in education. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Scott Johnson, Michael Walsh, Linda Coleman, Matthew Ethen, and Diane Jackson many more years of success.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 1998

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, today is a great day for supporters of campaign finance reform. It appears that after long last the leadership of the House of Representatives has agreed to allow an open, honest debate on campaign finance reform. The will of the people has overtaken the reluctance of the leadership in this crucial debate.

I began delivering a daily statement on campaign finance reform after the House failed to

pass legislation by July 4th of 1997. That was the date the President challenged Congress to pass comprehensive reform. Since I began my daily statements I have received overwhelming encouragement from the people of western Wisconsin who have told me that Congress must do something about the big money in politics. I am pleased that the leadership has finally given in to the demands of a majority of the members of the House who have advocated for real campaign finance reform.

This struggle is not over yet. We have received false promises before. I will continue to remind the leadership of their promise to allow an open and fair debate until that promise is kept.

I am pleased that the base bill for debate will be H.R. 2183, the Bipartisan Campaign Integrity Act. This is a bipartisan bill, worked out among freshman members the House. The freshman bill is an honest effort to craft a bill that will take the big money out of politics and give our elections back to the people. I hope the House passes this bill.

I thank the leadership for agreeing to end their stalling tactics and allow an open honest debate on campaign finance reform.

HONORING THE BAILEY-RICHMAN VFW POST'S 50TH YEAR

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 1998

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, permit me to take this opportunity to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Bailey-Richman Post No. 9588 in Monticello, New York. This VFW Post has been an invaluable asset to Sullivan County, assisting the veterans of our region and our nation as a whole.

The VFW Post No. 9588 was chartered April 4, 1948 in the memory of Erwin Richman and Ralph Bailey, both of whom lost their lives fighting for our nation in World War II. The Post, founded in the spirit of patriotism and honor, has fulfilled its legacy with dedication and hard work. It has served as a spiritual as well as a civic guide for the Sullivan County community. The Post's 28 Charter Life Members, 80 regular members, 44 Life Members and the 25 Past Commanders are all leading examples of bravery and selflessness. Their sacrifice to preserve America's principles and ethics have helped to ensure a new and promising future for all Americans.

Since 1899 the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States has fought for and protected veteran's rights. Their importance is undeniable, having assisted the concerns of Veteran's across the nation. Today, the Veterans of the Foreign Wars actively petitioned government to bring about beneficial change. The Bailey-Richman Post No. 9588 has supported the national effort as well as working with the community members to make a better life for our veterans.

In the ongoing effort to improve health care for our Veterans in the Hudson Valley Region, the V.F.W. has been indispensable. The Veterans of Foreign Wars has recognized the desperate need to improve the health care of our Veterans. Through their diligent and tireless efforts, the V.F.W. has exposed and highlighted the need for improved Veteran health care.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join with me in recognizing the fifty remarkable years of service of the Bailey-Richman Post No. 9588 and their contributions to our communities and our nation.

EARTH DAY

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 1998

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Earth Day 1998, I challenge Congress to join with me in better protecting our children's health and leaving our children a legacy of protected natural resources.

Over the last 25 years, this country has made enormous progress on environmental protection. The health of American children has improved because (1) We have made significant progress in cleaning up the air our children breathe; (2) We have made significant progress in cleaning up our lakes and rivers in which our children swim, boat and fish; and (3) We have made significant progress on cleaning up the toxic waste sites around which millions of our children live. However, we still have a long way to go in order to protect and preserve our nation's natural resources so that your children and mine can enjoy its beauty and benefits tomorrow. Thus, I believe we need to recognize that it is not a question of whether we can afford to protect the environment, rather it is a question of whether we can afford not to.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure that this year's budget provides funding to Restore clean water to our communities; Accelerate and make polluters pay for toxic waste clean up; and protect our national parks, wildlife refuges, and national forests.

EARTH DAY AND ELSMERE CANYON

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 1998

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss a very significant environmental issue: Elsmere Canyon. I find it particularly appropriate that I am afforded the opportunity to speak today, Earth Day, on a subject that is important not just to me, but also to the community that I represent.

Let me provide a brief history on this matter, Mr. Speaker. Before coming to Congress, I had the honor of serving as the first mayor of the City of Santa Clarita, which was incorporated in 1987. While in that capacity, a situation came to my attention that galvanized our community. A solid waste disposal company had proposed building a landfill using a portion of the Angeles National Forest known as Elsmere Canyon. If approved, the largest landfill in the United States—with a capacity of 190-million tons—would have been constructed in Elsmere Canyon.

In the early 1980's Los Angeles County's population boomed. At the same time, many small landfills were closed without any alternative measure to deal with the increased