

findings that will be accepted as legitimate by the public.

I appeal to the higher instincts of Speaker GINGRICH and Chairman BURTON to apologize directly to the people who have been smeared by these irresponsible attacks—Mr. and Mrs. Hubbell, the President and the First Lady—for the good of the Committee and the integrity of the Congress as a whole.

REGARDING PUBLIC SERVICE
RECOGNITION WEEK

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, we are in the midst of Public Service Recognition Week, and I salute the public servants whose hard work and determination have markedly improved the way government does business.

Each May, the President's Council on Management Improvement, and the Public Employees Roundtable, launch activities in cities across our nation which highlight excellence in public service at the federal, state, and local government levels. The organization hosts agency exhibits and demonstrations that educate the public about the array of programs and services that public employees provide to the American people.

Activities in my district were kicked off last Friday by the Baltimore Federal Executive Board which held its 31st Annual Excellence in Federal Career Awards program at Martin's West in Woodlawn. Thirty-six agencies submitted a total of 199 nominations for the Board's consideration. Among the 16 first place Gold Award winners were: Lieutenant Colonel David Mansfield, a Logistics Management Officer with the Maryland Air National Guard who was recognized as an outstanding supervisor; Ann Grieb, a computer specialist at the Coast Guard Engineering Logistics Center who was recognized as an outstanding specialist; and Serafin Rivera, a machinist with the Corps of Engineers who was recognized as outstanding in trades and crafts.

Mr. Speaker, while I only have enough time to recognize a few of the winners, I believe that each award recipient and each person nominated deserve our appreciation.

This past Monday, the Public Employees Roundtable held a ceremony here on Capitol Hill and presented its "Breakfast of Champions" award to representatives of exceptional programs at each level of government. The 1998 award winner at the Federal level was New York/New Jersey Veterans Integrated Service Network Consortium on Homeless Veterans. Other programs receiving special recognition this year were the City of Richmond, Virginia Fire Department; Immigrant Visa Unit, U.S. Embassy Moscow; and the Los Angeles County, California Consolidated Criminal History Reporting System.

Beginning today, May 7th, and continuing through Sunday, May 10th, over two dozen federal agencies and employee organizations will have exhibits set up in large tents on the National Mall at 3rd and Independence Avenues. The public is invited to come out to learn more about the functions of these agencies and the services that each provide. There will also be a job fair and a science fair. Some

of our military bands and other groups will provide entertainment during this family oriented event.

Mr. Speaker, Public Service Recognition Week offers all Americans, especially young people the opportunity to learn and get excited about a career in public service. It also provides the opportunity to thank those who serve us daily for their efforts. I believe that public service should be valued and respected by all Americans, and the activities occurring this week across the nation prove why.

SPECIAL TRIBUTE HONORING MER-
EDITH PELTY, LEGRAND SMITH
SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect for the outstanding record of excellence she has compiled in academics, leadership and community service, that I am proud to salute Meredith Peltz, winner of the 1998 LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This award is made to young adults who have demonstrated that they are truly committed to playing important roles in our Nation's future.

As a winner of the LeGrand Smith Scholarship, Meredith is being honored for demonstrating that same generosity of spirit, intelligence, responsible citizenship, and capacity for human service that distinguished the late LeGrand Smith of Somerset, Michigan.

Meredith is an exceptional student at Onsted High School and possesses an impressive high school record. Meredith is the Captain of the National Honor Society and was chosen by her peers this year as the Homecoming Queen. Meredith is also involved with varsity cheerleading and track. Outside of school, Meredith is a Confirmation teacher within her church and is involved with her church youth group.

In special tribute, Therefore, I am proud to join with her many admirers in extending my highest praise and congratulations to Meredith Peltz for her selection as a winner of a LeGrand Smith Scholarship. This honor is also a testament to the parents, teachers, and others whose personal interest, strong support and active participation contributed to her success. To this remarkable young woman, I extend my most heartfelt good wishes for all her future endeavors.

"OMNIBUS MERCURY EMISSIONS
REDUCTION ACT OF 1998"

HON. THOMAS H. ALLEN

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 7, 1998

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Omnibus Mercury Emissions Reductions Act of 1998." This important legislation is aimed at protecting our children from mercury, one of the most dangerous toxins in our environment.

Mercury is a naturally occurring, highly toxic element. Its presence in our environment has built to dangerous levels due to the lack of

regulation of power plants, waste incinerators, and some types of manufacturing. Those regions downwind from the major pollution sources are most at risk because mercury can travel great distances before falling to the Earth and washing into our lakes, rivers and streams. My home State of Maine, the tailpipe for our nation's polluted air, has some of the highest mercury levels in the country. As I've often said, the wind travels west to east, always has, always will.

Our children are most at risk. Mercury poisoning can be devastating for children and pregnant women. Contamination can cause damage to the developing central nervous system. Adults can also be affected. Symptoms range from numbness in extremities to paralysis and kidney disease. The most common form of mercury poisoning occurs from eating polluted fish. Exposure can also occur through drinking water and soil contamination. Several states, including Maine, have issued health warnings due to mercury contamination that cover every single body of inland water.

Our wildlife is also in danger. Maine's loons and bald eagles, symbols of the state's beauty and natural habitat, have mercury levels high enough to interfere with reproduction. In fact Maine's bald eagle reproductive rates have remained well below the rest of the country. Studies have found significantly high levels of mercury and other toxins in eggs and eaglets.

The Clean Air Act has achieved remarkable success since its inception. Our families are breathing easier because we have reduced the emission levels of lead and other toxins. Unfortunately, mercury has fallen through the cracks. The Environmental Protection Agency recently released its "Mercury Study Report to Congress." This detailed report contains volumes of information on the dangers of mercury and how to control the levels emitted into our environment. Now that we have the long-awaited report, we must take action.

The legislation I am introducing will do just that. The "Omnibus Mercury Emissions Reduction Act of 1998" requires the EPA to set mercury emission standards for the largest sources. The bill sets an emissions reduction standard of 95 percent for coal-fired powerplants and other utilities, as well as incinerators and chlor-alkali plants. Many may argue this cannot be done, that the costs of controls will be much too high. I disagree. We know mercury can be reduced or removed from powerplants and products. Technology exists for companies to meet the standards, and this bill will allow them to choose the best approach for their facility. We have reduced or eliminated other toxins, without the catastrophic effects the utilities predicted. The time has come to do it with mercury.

When I ran for office last year, people in Maine told me the country needed to continue the environmental strides made by leaders like Senator Edmund Muskie and Senator George Mitchell. Maine is proud of its tradition of environmental activism. Maine Governor Angus King and his administration have taken steps to reduce the levels of mercury emitted by sources within Maine. That, however, will not protect our children from sources that cross our boundaries. Maine has cleaned up its act, and now we must ask for the rest of the nation to help.

Just five years ago, 27 states had issued mercury advisories covering almost 900 water bodies. Today, the number of states with