

Environmental Poetry and Art Project. A third grader at Culkin Elementary School, Tyler has written a truly moving description of one of the pleasures we can all gain from a healthy natural environment. I would like to read the poem into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in hopes that it will encourage all its readers to develop a better appreciation of the great outdoors.

FISHING ON THE OUACHITA

I burn my lure beneath the surface,
Cordell redbfin, real as rainbow
you like to feast on.
Starving striped bass
cruising for a bleeding shad,
you rise swift as white gulls above me,
deep from your blue hidden kingdom.
I wait for the moment
when I feel you strike
like a flood swallowing a levee.
Your fight breaks the water,
silver courage stronger than this line.
It gives, you take,
becoming my wish for another day.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
REPUBLIC OF CHINA

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 1998

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Republic of China. If there is one country that deserves praise, it is the Republic of China on Taiwan. It is a country without natural resources, yet it has become an oasis of wealth in Asia. This economic miracle is due to the leadership of Taiwan's President Lee Teng-hui and Vice President Lien Chan.

Sworn in as the ninth president and vice president of the Republic of China on May 20, 1996, President Lee and Vice President Lien have worked very hard to maintain Taiwan's economic growth and initiated all types of political reform. Today, Taiwan stands tall among all nations. It is rich, free and respects human rights. It is a full democracy.

On the occasion of President Lee and Vice President Lien's second anniversary in office, I extend to them my best wishes and congratulations.

HONORING REPRESENTATIVE
MIKE NYE

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 1998

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join the citizens of Hillsdale and Branch Counties to pay special tribute to our representative in the Michigan legislature.

So many people talk about the kind of leader they want to represent them in government and Mike Nye fits that definition by every measure.

This week, my friends in Hillsdale County will honor Mike Nye for his sixteen years of dedicated leadership in Lansing. They know, as I do, that few people have accomplished more in that time for the people of Michigan.

Mike Nye's retirement from the state legislature is a great loss. As a member of the House, he fought for commonsense legal re-

form and worked to provide better health care to poor children and was the innovator of reforms that have resulted in a better education system for Michigan. Mike Nye's improvements in court reform, school reform, tort reform, and juvenile justice reform will be a continuing legacy of his knowledge, ability and leadership in the Michigan legislature.

In an era of overheated rhetoric and blatant partisanship, Mike Nye stands out as a conciliator—a legislator who brought people together. Mike Nye was often the man people turned to when they needed a leader to finalize and pass legislation.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues and I here in Washington can learn a lot from the service of Mike Nye. His contributions to public policy are equaled by his and his wife, Marcie's, dedication to their community. Marcie's leadership in working in the prison system with her Kids Need Moms program is a great example of their commitment to help people.

I know Mike's future contributions will be just as worthwhile to all of us, regardless of what path he may take. God bless you, Mike, and good luck.

INTRODUCTION OF THE URBAN
ASTHMA REDUCTION ACT OF 1998

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 1998

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to join with several of my colleagues, to introduce The Urban Asthma Reduction Act of 1998.

This bill takes an important step towards increasing the federal commitment to reducing the high rate of asthma-related illnesses and hospitalizations of inner city children who suffer from asthma and who also are allergic to cockroach allergen. In 1997, the National Institutes of Health (National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases) reported conclusively that asthmatic children who were both allergic to cockroaches, and exposed to high cockroach allergen levels, were hospitalized 3.3 times more often than children who were either only exposed or allergic.

The link between asthma and allergy to cockroaches is a serious public health concern. In light of the NIH findings, there should be increased federal assistance to communities to address the problem.

Asthma is on the rise, especially in inner cities. Last month, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention reported that more than 15 million Americans suffer from asthma—an increase of 75 percent between 1980 and 1994.

Asthma is a growing concern for poor and minority communities, especially African American and Latinos. In 1993, among children and adults, African Americans were 3 to 4 times more likely than whites to be hospitalized for asthma. They were 4 to 6 times more likely to die from asthma.

The social and economic costs are high. These children are more likely to miss school more often, go to the doctor or emergency room more frequently, and lose sleep. Consequently, the adults who care for these children may have to miss work to care for them. According to The Washington Post (April 24,

1998) the Centers for Disease Control reported that costs related to asthma were estimated to be \$6.2 billion in 1990, and expected to more than double by the year 2000.

The Urban Asthma Reduction Act of 1998 asks for action. The bill proposes to amend the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant Program, authorized by the Public Health Service Act, by adding integrated cockroach management to rodent control as an eligible activity for funding. Several groups have expressed support in working on behalf of the legislation. These include the Chicago Asthma Coalition, Southside Health Consortium American Lung Association, and the Safer Pest Control Project, a statewide coalition that promotes pesticide use reduction throughout Illinois.

Integrated cockroach management is a multi-faceted approach to controlling the prevalence of cockroaches while minimizing pesticide use. It involves a range of techniques that include building cleaning and maintenance, and using pesticides as a means of last resort. The funds could be used for structural rehabilitation of buildings. This includes patching holes or open pipes that allow cockroaches entry; caulking cracks in walls; moving bushes away from buildings so cockroaches do not have easy access; and ensuring that all windows are properly screened.

Integrated cockroach management can work. One example comes from Chicago. Residents of the Henry Horner Public Housing Development successfully created and carried out an integrated pest control program with assistance from the Safer Pest Control Project. The Henry Horner Pest Control Program is illustrative of the type of pro-active and preventive work that the Urban Asthma Reduction Act of 1998 would support.

The Urban Asthma Reduction Act creates new possibilities for communities that are serious about making integrated pest management a component of a comprehensive public health policy. City-wide cockroach control carried out in Budapest, Hungary between 1978 and 1990 resulted in nearly cockroach-free housing, schools, factories, hospitals, and other public facilities. Budapest's experience is documented in "Efficacy of Large-Scale Rat and Cockroach Control Actions in Budapest Shown by Experiences Over a 23-Year Period," a paper presented at the 1996 International Conference on Urban Pests held in Edinburgh, Scotland.

Both the Henry Horner Pest Control program and the experience of Budapest demonstrate that a significant reduction in urban cockroach prevalence can be achieved and maintained. My hope is that the Urban Asthma Reduction Act of 1998 will prove a viable tool for urban communities to improve the quality of life and health of all residents, but especially children who suffer from asthma. I urge all my Colleagues to join me in cosponsoring this legislation.

HONORING THE 57TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE BATTLE OF CRETE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 1998

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the 57th anniversary of the Battle of

Crete. This is a historic event with direct significance to the allies' victory of World War II.

On May 20, 1941, thousands of German paratroopers and gliders began landing on Crete. Both the allies and Nazis wanted Crete because of its strategic location. At that time the British controlled the island. It was a very strong point on the lifeline to India and protected both Palestine and Egypt.

The Nazi invasion force included the elite German paratroopers and glider troops. Hitler felt this was to be an easy victory, yet he is quoted to have said shortly after the invasion, "France fell in 8 days. Why is Crete free?" The invasion of Crete took 11 days. It resulted in more than 6,000 German troopers listed as killed, wounded or missing in action. The losses to the elite 7th parachute division were felt so hard by the German Military it signified the end of large-scale airborne operations.

This valiant fight by the Cretan people began in the first hour of the Nazi airborne invasion. In contrast of the European underground movements that took a year or more after being invaded to activate. Young boys, old men and women displayed breathtaking bravery in defending their Crete. German soldiers never got used to Cretan women fighting them. They would tear the dress from the shoulder of suspected women to find bruises from the recoil of the rifle. The penalty was death. The Times (London) July 28, 1941 report that "five hundred Cretan women have been deported to Germany for taking part in the defense of their native island."

Another surprise for the German soldiers who invaded Crete was the heroic resistance of the clergy. A priest leading his parishioners into battle was not what the Germans anticipated. At Paleochora, Father Stylianos Frantzeskis, hearing of the German airborne invasion, rushed to his church, sounded the bell, took his rifle and marched his volunteers toward Maleme to write history. This struggle became an example for all Europe to follow in defying German occupation and aggression.

The price paid by the Cretans' for their valiant resistance to Nazi forces was high. Thousands of civilians died from random executions, starvation, and imprisonment. Entire communities were burned and destroyed by the Germans as a reprisal for the Cretan resistance movement. Yet this resistance lasted for four years. The battle of Crete was to change the final outcome of World War II.

The Battle of Crete significantly contributed in delaying Hitler's plan to invade Russia. The invasion was delayed from April to June of 1941. The two month delay in the invasion made Hitler's forces face the Russian winter. The Russian snow storms and the sub zero temperatures eventually stalled the Nazi invasion before they could take Moscow or Leningrad. This was the beginning of the downfall of the Nazi reign of terror.

This significant battle and the heroic drive of the Cretan people must always be remembered and honored. Democracy came from Greece and the Cretan heroes exemplified the courage it takes to preserve it.

Today, the courage and fortitude of the Cretan people is seen in the members of the United Cretan Associations of New York, that is located in Astoria. The association's Chairman Steven Kohilakis and Co-Chairman Charles Marangoudakis, together with the presidents of the member clubs: Emmanuel Taouganakis, Omonia, Emmanuel Velonakis,

Minos, Emmanuel Piperakis, Cretan Brotherhood, George Filippakis, Erotokritos and Aretousa, Marina Pefani, Pasifai, Cleo Aliferis, Cretan Sisterhood, Emmanuel Vlastakis, Filoxenia, John Daskos, Diktamos, Andreas Fiotodimitrakis, Labris, Mr. Polihronakis, Idomeneas and Mr. Berikakis, Kazatzakis are excellent representatives of their Cretan heritage.

I request my colleagues to join me in honoring the Cretans in the United States, Greece and the diaspora.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO SCOTT B. RADCLIFFE ON HIS APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY AT WEST POINT, NEW YORK

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 1998

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to a truly outstanding young man from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District, Scott B. Radcliffe. Scott recently accepted his offer of appointment to attend the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, and will soon enroll as part of the Cadet Class of 2002.

Scott, who is from Perrysburg, Ohio, will soon be graduating from Perrysburg High School. After graduation, he will begin preparing for what figures to be one of the most exciting, challenging, and educational experiences of his life: his four years at West Point.

While attending high school in Perrysburg, Scott distinguished himself as a talented student. His academic achievements in the classroom are certainly accomplishments of which he can be proud. An honors student, Scott has maintained a cumulative grade point average of 3.3, placing him near the top in his class of 315 students.

In addition to his excellent work in the classroom, Scott has proven himself to be a talented and gifted student-athlete. Scott has excelled on the fields of competition throughout his high school career. During his senior year, he was selected as the Captain of the Varsity Football Team and the Varsity Basketball Team. He has also been active in the Perrysburg Show Choir, symphony, and the school musical.

Mr. Speaker, each year, I have the opportunity to nominate several outstanding young men and women from the Fifth District to the nation's military academies. I am pleased that Scott was among those nominated for the West Point Class of 2002. I would urge my colleagues to stand and join me in paying special tribute to Scott Radcliffe, and in wishing him well at West Point and in the future.

IN HONOR OF PEOPLE'S SELF-HELP HOUSING

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 1998

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an organization that has pro-

vided countless Central Coast families with hope and a home, People's Self-Help Housing.

People's Self-Help Housing is being honored today by the Fannie Mae Foundation for sustained excellence in their work. It is an award of recognition that is justly deserved.

Through the efforts of the good and hard-working individuals at People's Self-Help, more Central Coast families live in places they want to call home. I extend to them my sincerest thanks for their years of dedication, and congratulations for achieving this well deserved commendation for the Fannie Mae Foundation.

People's Self-Help Housing has been providing housing for low income families for more than 25 years. They have produced over 1400 units for low income seniors, families, farmworkers, and other special needs groups. Expanding beyond their original "sweat equity" program, People's Self-Help now handles affordable rental units, property management and complete construction services. They provide well managed properties and ensure that much needed health and education services are available to residents of these communities.

Mr. Speaker, I have known the head of this wonderful organization, Jeannette Duncan, for years and I have seen firsthand the fantastic work that this group does. People's Self-Help helps to fill a glaring need in our bucolic seaside and inland rural communities. Housing is expensive on the Central Coast and finding clean, affordable, quality homes and apartments can be a real struggle for people of limited means or extraordinary needs.

Among their many accomplishments, People's Self-Help has provided farmworkers with national award-winning townhouses in Santa Maria, updated the Victoria Street apartments in downtown Santa Barbara, and provided apartments for seniors in Templeton. Through their creativity and persistence, the Central Coast has filled communities where low and moderate income families find an opportunity to participate in the American dream.

They have done these things by working with developers, banks, local, state and Federal officials. But most of all, they have done this by thinking first and foremost of the communities they serve and the people who so often are forgotten in our society.

This is an example of public-private partnership that works, providing services to communities that need them and opening the doors of opportunity to all.

I commend Jeannette and everyone at People's Self-Help for their years of service and success, and in the recognition that is being bestowed upon them today.

HONORING CALVIN AND MARJORIE BRIGHT

HON. GARY A. CONDIT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 1998

Mr. CONDIT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a pair of very special friends of mine—Calvin and Marjorie Bright—and to recognize them as they become the first recipients of the Bart Bennett Community Award.

This award, given by the City of Modesto in my district in California's great Central Valley,