

reading newspapers and keeping up with current events. The facts that he is hearing-impaired never prevented Jason from doing well and making Guam proud.

On behalf of the people of Guam, I congratulate Jason Espiritu on his very fine performance. We commend his efforts towards excellence and expect no less from him in the years to come.

LET'S HELP OUR NATIONAL  
PARKS AND THE AMERICAN  
TAXPAYER

### HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 21, 1998*

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation, with the co-sponsorship of several of my colleagues, to provide a fair return to the public for the commercial use of our national parks and to use those funds to maintain and enhance park resources and visitor services.

The National Park Service is being hamstrung in the changes it can make to its concessions policies by the provisions of the outdated 1965 Concessions Policy Act. At a time when families, senior citizens, and other recreational users visiting our parks are required to pay higher fees, the same is not being required of commercial operators who profit from our national parks. For far too long, the public has not received a fair return on the commercial revenues generated in our national parks. It's time to end this situation.

"The National Park Service Concession Policy Reform Act of 1998" is the successor of the NPS concessions reform legislation of the 103rd Congress, which, although it passed the House in 1994 by an overwhelming vote of 386 to 30 and the Senate by an equally overwhelming vote of 90 to 9, never was enacted into law. The provisions of my bill have been the subject of numerous hearings over the years and addresses problems identified in GAO and Inspector General reports. It is a proposal that has had the support of the Administration, environmental organizations, and taxpayer watchdog groups. Similar legislation has been introduced in the Senate by Senator Dale Bumpers.

The legislation provides meaningful competition for NPS contracts to provide goods and services to park visitors. The bill eliminates certain preferential rights of renewal and phases out possessory interest, both of which have been major barriers to competition. In addition, it provides that the funds generated from concession contracts will stay in the parks to benefit park resources and visitor services.

If we want to increase the return to the public and enhance park resources while still making available to visitors a quality concessions service, we need to install a competitive process instead of maintaining advantages for select commercial operators. The National Park Service Concession Policy Reform Act achieves these purposes. I hope Members will add their support to this legislation.

IN HONOR OF ANTHONY DIBIASIO

### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 21, 1998*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Anthony "Tony" DiBiasio for his tireless efforts on behalf of the school children of Lakewood, Ohio for the past fifty years.

After serving his country in the U.S. Air Force during the Second World War, Tony went on to receive a B.S. and Masters from Ohio University and continued doctoral studies at Western Reserve University. For fifty years, "Mr. D." has demonstrated this love of learning as a teacher, administrator, coach, and currently, as Executive Director of the Lakewood Public Schools Foundation. He has also served as president of both the Lakewood Education Association and the Lakewood PTA.

In addition to his work with Lakewood schools, Tony has also served as Director of Project Read, conducting reading workshops at colleges and universities throughout the country. He has also sat on the Board of Directors of Keep America Beautiful and was a valued member of the Lakewood Kiwanis Club. Tony has been published in a number of professional journals.

Having made a significant contribution to his community, it comes as little surprise that Tony had made something of a "name" for himself. The street in front of Lakewood High School has been dubbed Tony DiBiasio Square. A scholarship fund at the high school and the Fitness Center at the Lakewood YMCA also bear his name. Tony's service towards others has been honored by the American Legion and the American Red Cross.

My fellow colleagues, let us join the entire Lakewood community in thanking Anthony DiBiasio for his commitment to the young people of Lakewood, Ohio. May his many years of service to community and country serve as an example to us all.

SALUTE TO MAJOR NED SWINNEY

### HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 21, 1998*

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Major Ned Swinney, who was born January 13, 1938, in Jefferson County, MS to the late Jim and Leola Swinney.

Major Swinney departed this life on May 10, 1998, but he left a proud legacy as a husband, father, and law enforcement officer. He attended the Jackson public schools and received an associate degree from the Baptist Seminary of Mississippi.

Major Swinney began his career as a law enforcement officer in 1956 as a military police officer in the United States Army. He began his 25-year-long association with the Hinds County Sheriff's Department in July 1972 where he served as Deputy Sheriff, Staff Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain, and was promoted to Major in 1992.

Major Swinney exhibited thoughtfulness and compassion for people in the community he

came in touch with. He reached out to those in trouble with a steady hand supported by his Christian belief of loving one's neighbor.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in saluting the family of Major Ned Swinney for the outstanding contributions he made to the world of law enforcement.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO BRIAN C. VANVALKENBURG ON HIS APPOINTMENT TO ATTEND THE U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY AT WEST POINT, NY

### HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 21, 1998*

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to a truly outstanding young man from Ohio's Fifth Congressional District, Brian C. VanValkenburg. Brian has recently accepted his offer of appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, and will be joining the incoming Cadet Class of 2002.

Very soon, Brian will be graduating from Vermilion High School, and will begin preparing for one of the most challenging, rewarding, and educational experiences of his life: his four years at West Point.

While attending Vermilion High School, Brian distinguished himself as an outstanding student and a very fine student-athlete. In the classroom, Brian's academic successes are outstanding, as he has attained a 3.77 grade point average, placing him tenth in his class of 194 students.

Brian has been active in the National Honor Society, and has participated in the National Latin Exam. In addition, Brian has shown himself to be a leader with his election to president of his class during his junior year. On the fields of competition, Brian was a member of the Vermilion Sailors Varsity Football Team.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have the opportunity to nominate Brian for appointment to the United States Military Academy. I am certain he will do very well. I would ask my colleagues to stand and join me in paying special tribute to Brian VanValkenburg, and in wishing him well in all of his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO NAT BINGHAM

### HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 21, 1998*

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to Nat Bingham, an advocate for the fish and the fishermen on the West Coast, whose untimely death earlier this month has left a void so large, it will be difficult, if not impossible, to fill. His list of accomplishments on behalf of the fish and forests was long and varied, forging compromise between opposing groups for the good of the resource.

A commercial fisherman for over 30 years, his efforts in fisheries restoration began almost as long ago when, in his typical forward looking way, he headed projects in North Coast watersheds for salmon rearing and stream

restoration. He initiated the Sacramento winter-run salmon broodstock program and the Sacramento spring-run chinook working group. He was a critical voice in the debate leading to the enactment of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act, rallying the fishing industry to support our efforts to provide water for fish and wildlife.

He was active in coho salmon recovery efforts, and was a member of the Ecosystem Roundtable dealing with funding proposals for the Bay-Delta. He was a long-time member of the Commercial Salmon Stamp Committee and the California Advisory Committee on Salmon and Steelhead Trout. He also served as president of the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Association (PCFFA) for 9 years. Through it all he fought tirelessly for the industry and the restoration of the fish they depend on.

Nat gave up fishing a few years ago to work full-time on fish and fish habitat conservation as the Habitat Director for PCFFA. In this role, he was instrumental in the developing and building support for new habitat protection measures that were included in the most recent reauthorization of the Magnuson Act. He was a current member of the Pacific Fishery Management Council, and prior to be appointed to the Council he served as chairman of their Salmon Advisory panel. A proponent for protecting marine areas, he was to be the Pacific Council's representative on the upcoming Year of the Ocean Conference in Monterey.

Nat Bingham was an independent thinker, a strong moral voice, and a great conservationist who looked at the long term, not just the present. He would take on large industry—whether it was oil, timber, or agribusiness—the government, the environmental community, or even his own fishing industry when he felt they were wrong. He approached these challenges as a consensus builder not an adversary, however, trying to build bridges between opposing interests for the good of the resources and the people that depend on them.

There are some people who have been so important and have been doing the work for so long in their community that their value to the people, the community and the resource is impossible to measure. At the same time, they have been fighting the fight for so long, you can't remember what it was like before they came along. Nat Bingham was one of those people. His contributions to the protection of the resource and our environment were immeasurable, and the thought of fighting the good fight without him is almost impossible to imagine. We will continue to fight however, to save the salmon and their habitat. Nat would expect no less, and it is an appropriate way to honor his memory.

#### TRIBUTE TO BEN WILLIAMS

### HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 21, 1998*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding career of an educator in our community. A lifelong educator with the Toledo Public School system, Ben Williams will be feted at a retirement event that

will also serve as a scholarship dinner in his honor on May 23, 1998 in Toledo.

A product of the Toledo Public Schools himself, Ben began his career in 1968 at Woodward High School, where he taught general science and coached freshman boys basketball. Ben truly discovered his passion as a teacher and coach at Toledo's Scott High School in 1969, where he remained until retirement. While at Scott, he taught health education, became Chair of the Physical Education Department, and coached the junior varsity and varsity boys basketball teams. During his seventeen years as head coach, his teams have won an amazing ten City Championships, and last year, the Scott Bulldogs won the Ohio State Championship. No doubt, the Bulldogs with this victory expressed their appreciation to him for his lifelong dedication to them. Eight of the teams under his leadership have ranked among the top ten Ohio AAA teams. His accomplishments earned Ben the designation of AAA Boys Basketball Coach of the Year.

Ben's success as a basketball coach has not been simply about fostering technical skills and teamwork on the basketball court. States a noted local sportscaster, "While building the area's top basketball program at Scott, Ben has not let his players forget why they are in school. He not only insists on athletic achievement but academic efforts as well." Indeed, 90 percent of his players have gone on to college! Truly a mentor to his players, Ben puts his philosophy into action, explaining "Most of our boys come from broken homes. I spend more time with them than the typical coach. I have a year-round relationship with them. We try to keep basketball in perspective. Academic achievement and personality improvement are the most important things."

Ben also founded the City of Toledo Recreation Department's Annual Early Bird Basketball Clinic, serving over 600 children in each of the 8 years he directed the program. He has directed various recreation and youth offices in both Toledo and Erie, Pennsylvania. Finally, he worked with the University of Toledo's Summer Sports Program for 13 years, from 1970 to 1983.

Ben Williams is a graduate of Bowling Green State University, where he earned both his undergraduate and graduate degrees. He has also worked toward his doctorate at Gannon College in Pennsylvania, George Washington University, and Sir George William's University in Montreal. He holds a teaching award from Phi Beta Kappa, and has received many other awards for his exemplary teaching and service to our community.

In addition to an extraordinarily successful teaching and coaching career, Ben is happily married to Arielle. They are the proud and earnest parents of Robert, Kristie, and Leah.

Perhaps Ben Williams' proudest professional moment came when Scott High School last year renamed its field house in his honor. In accepting the tribute, Ben spoke of his State Championship team. "This close unit has shown what discipline, hard work, and caring can do for all who wish to beat the odds." Indeed these stand as fitting words by which we all might live.

SUPPORTING H.R. 59

### HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 21, 1998*

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 59, the National Right To Work Act. This bill would repeal those sections of Federal law which allow big labor to force hard-working Americans to pay union dues under the threat of losing their jobs.

This is un-American. Yet, it happens to thousands of men and women every single month of the year. Union bosses take the hard-earned money of workers who have no legal say in the matter.

Mr. Speaker, it was Congress who created this problem. We gave big labor the privilege and authority to take this money away, by taking away the worker's freedom to choose whether or not to pay union dues.

Congress must now give that freedom back to American workers.

H.R. 59 empowers Americans and gives them the choice that never should have been taken from them in the first place.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 59, the National Right To Work Act.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE JUDICIAL ANTI-NEPOTISM ACT

### HON. JENNIFER DUNN

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 21, 1998*

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to preserve the institutional integrity of the federal courts. This bill will clarify the 1922 anti-nepotism law (section 458 of Title 28 of the United States Code) which prohibits the appointment or employment in any court of individuals who are related within the degree of first cousin to any justice or judge of that court.

Currently, there is disagreement about whether this anti-nepotism law applies simply to judges' personnel decisions or whether it includes presidential appointments to judicial offices in federal courts.

I believe that the law must apply to both if courts are to remain unbiased. It is the duty of Congress to ensure that the credibility of our judicial branch is not compromised. That is why I am introducing the Judicial Anti-nepotism Act. This legislation clarifies the intent of the original law to preclude the appointment of a judge to a court if that person is related within the degree of first cousin to any judge, including a judge retired in senior status, of that same court.

If the law were not to apply to the familial relationship of judges, close family members would be able to serve concurrently on the same court, causing litigants to lose confidence in a system clearly designed to be objective and impartial. We simply cannot afford to let this happen. We must assure that federal judges are independent from any outside influence in order for their decisions to be completely impartial and based only on the laws and facts of the cases.

I encourage my colleagues to support this bill and help uphold the just character and