

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Park Service is being hamstrung in the changes it can make to its concessions policies by the provisions of the outdated 1965 Concessions Policy Act.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