

photos tells a story. It is so with my family. Our family and friends all grew up in the shadow of "our" mountain spending time in a cabin near Greenwater and venturing into the park many times during every season.

It was always amazing to me that for all the trails we hiked, streams we crossed, picnics we enjoyed, glaciers we climbed, it was new and different every time. We never tired of "our" mountain. I can't imagine I ever will. As a Member of Congress, I have been given the opportunity to see the park and mountain from a different vantage point. Rather than just a visitor, I am now an active partner in helping to maintain the park and protect it for future generations.

The theme of the centennial celebration is "A Century of Resource Stewardship." To underscore this theme, the park has undertaken a series of signature projects. These include the Sunrise Ecological Restoration Project, rehabilitation of the White River Patrol Cabin, and completion of the last mile of the Wonderland Trail.

In February, Northwest Airlines began airing a special video about the Mt. Rainier Centennial that airs on international flights landing at Sea Tac Airport. Today, the celebration begins with a birthday cake and a ceremony to announce a collectible cancelled stamp at Longmire in the park. I am honored to participate in this ceremony kicking off the official celebration.

Throughout this year the centennial committee has planned exciting projects and activities to celebrate the park's 100th birthday. For instance, the Tacoma/Pierce County Visitor and Convention Bureau and the gateway communities have joined together to host several special weekends of festivals and activities, and renowned mountain climber, Lou Whitaker, is leading a special "Centennial Climb" to the summit of Mt. Rainier. Lou's climbing group will include international mountain climbers as well as celebrities who have climbed with Lou in the past.

My colleagues, if you haven't made vacation plans or visited Mt. Rainier National Park before, this is surely the time to come to Washington and join us in our celebration. And, perhaps on your way up to the park or while you're enjoying a latte somewhere in Seattle, you will have that special experience that separates us in Washington from the rest of the world. You or someone you're with may look South to the horizon and say, "Look! The mountain is out today!"

#### IRA EXPANSION NEEDED

### HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 2, 1999*

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, the current tax system has many problems, but one of its main defects is its bias against personal saving. Personal saving is taxed once out of income, and then the return to saving is taxed once again. This multiple taxation penalizes personal saving, a major source of economic growth. So it is no surprise that America has one of the lowest personal savings rates in the world.

This bias can be addressed by increasing the tax deduction for IRA contributions, cur-

rently set at \$2,000 annually. Today I am introducing legislation to boost IRA deduction limits \$500 per year over several years. When fully phased in, a middle class family could deduct up to \$7,000 for an annual IRA contribution. I strongly urge that an increase in IRA deductions be a part of any tax relief plan offered in this Congress.

An increase in IRA deductions would help middle class families save for the future, become more financially independent, and become better able to deal with unexpected events. Expanded IRAs would also give middle class families a greater stake in the U.S. economic system. It is a tax incentive that average Americans would understand and strongly support.

An increase in IRA deductions would increase personal saving, a major source of investment and economic growth. This would help firms to supply their workers with the best and most advanced tools, thus increasing their productivity and income. The current treatment of saving in our tax code is literally counterproductive. This is hampering our economy over the long term and reducing the American standard of living relative to what it would otherwise be.

Many in Washington bemoan the low savings rate, but if we want personal saving to increase, we should increase IRA deductions for middle class taxpayers. A tax code that penalizes saving and investment makes no sense. Middle class taxpayers need a means of addressing their responsibilities to save for retirement, higher education, medical expenses and long term care, and unemployment. My legislation provides for penalty-free withdrawals for these purposes. Federal tax policy should not discriminate against taxpayers willing and able to take on these responsibilities but are prevented from doing so by the destructive impact of the current tax system. Let's limit the tax discrimination against personal saving.

#### LEGISLATION THAT ALLOWS COMMERCIAL AND SUBSISTENCE FISHING TO CONTINUE IN GLACIER BAY NATIONAL PARK

### HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 2, 1999*

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation, along with identical legislation being introduced in the Senate by Senators MURKOWSKI and STEVENS, to allow commercial and subsistence fishing to continue in Glacier Bay National Park.

In 1978, the National Park Service made a determination that commercial fishing activities were incompatible with National Park Service resources and would be permitted only when specifically authorized by law. Because of this broad determination, the National Park Service developed a rule outlawing commercial and subsistence fishing within the waters of Glacier Bay National Park in 1997.

This broad determination by the National Park Service ignores the fact that commercial fishing has taken place in the waters of Glacier Bay even before the National Park Service took control of the Bay in 1925. Alaskan Natives have fished in this Bay since the 1700's. Non-Native commercial fishing began

in the 1880's. In addition, under the Glacier Bay National Park General Management Plan, put into place in 1984, commercial fishing was allowed. Why has the Park Service suddenly now determined that there is some threat to Park resources?

Both the salmon and crab fisheries found off the coast of Alaska and in Glacier Bay National Park, even in Federal waters, are managed by the State of Alaska not the Federal government. There is no resource problem in these fisheries or within the boundaries of the Park. The halibut resource in this area is managed through an international treaty and scientists with both the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and the International Halibut Commission have found that there is no problem with the halibut resource in this area. In 1990, the Alaska Wildlife Alliance sued the National Park Service claiming that commercial fishing was statutorily prohibited within the Park. In March 1997, the Federal appeals court (U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals) ruled that commercial fishing was not statutorily prohibited in the Park, except for in wilderness areas. If there is no resource problem within the Glacier Bay National Park boundaries, then commercial and subsistence fishing activities should not be prohibited by broad National Park Service policies drafted in Washington, D.C.

The determination banning commercial and subsistence fishing within Glacier Bay National Park made no sense and was a political decision that will take away the livelihood of a large number of fishermen and will affect the well being of a number of communities which rely on the fishing industry. A ban on commercial fishing will affect not only fishermen, but will also have a huge effect on processing companies including a Native owned and operated processing plant in Kake, which buys much of its seafood from vessels which fish in Glacier Bay. A ban on commercial fishing in Glacier Bay will affect 416 crew and permit holders from Gustavus, Elfin Cove, Hoonah, and Pelican and affect employment opportunities for 613 employed in the seafood industry in these four towns alone. This ban will have a huge economic effect on this region. All of the fishing operations in the Park boundaries are small businesses—there are no large fishing vessels fishing in the Park and no factory trawlers fish here.

Last year, a group of stakeholders including commercial fishing industry representatives, Alaskan Natives, local processing companies, local and national environmental representatives, the State of Alaska, and Park Service personnel met to work out details of an agreement which would allow commercial fishing to continue. The stakeholders had not come to a resolution and because there was no resolution, language was put in the Interior Appropriations legislation to prevent the National Park Service from publishing final rules until the stakeholder group could reach an agreement; however, the National Park Service and national environmental groups made this a national environmental priority and prevented the stakeholder process from concluding.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation will reverse this unjust and unscientific National Park Service policy and allow commercial and subsistence fishing to continue in the non-wilderness waters of Glacier Bay National Park. It clarifies that the State of Alaska will continue to manage marine fishery resources within the Park's