

be implemented for Afghan women and children; and Afghan women should play a leadership role in rebuilding the country.

HONORING JOE DESCH AND THE
NCR CODE-BREAKING EFFORT

HON. TONY P. HALL

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 17, 2001

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, at a ceremony on October 19, 2001, the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) will designate as a "Milestone in Engineering" the U.S. Naval Computing Machine Laboratory, in Dayton, Ohio, which I represent.

During World War II, the ability to analyze quickly coded enemy messages was one of our most critical military capabilities. To build a machine that could break codes from Nazi submarines, the Navy turned to Dayton's National Cash Register Company (NCR) and Joseph R. Desch, director of its Electrical Research Laboratory.

For three years, Desch and his team of dedicated workers developed a machine which allowed our Nation to crack the secret code used by the Nazi military command to communicate its secret plans to its forces in the field. The device, called a Bombe, was the military's highest priority, second only to the development of the Atom Bomb. Its success gave the Allies a significant advantage, hastening the end of the war and saving the lives of American soldiers.

Desch and his team faced enormous pressure as they labored daily to construct and produce the code-breaking device. They sacrificed their personal health, both emotional and physical. Many of these heroes are no longer living. Desch died on August 3, 1987, at age 80.

The effort has been all but forgotten because of the enormous secrecy surrounding the project. In February and March 2001, the Dayton Daily News ran an extraordinary 8-part series by Jim DeBrosse about Desch. The series brought to light for the first time much information about NCR's code-breaking efforts. The IEEE ceremony later this month will bring additional honor to his memory.

Perhaps the greatest tribute to the memory of Joe Desch and his contribution to the war effort would be the permanent display of an original NCR Bombe in Dayton. Of the more than 120 Bombes that were believed to have been constructed in Dayton, the sole known surviving Bombe is displayed at the National Security Agency's National Cryptologic Museum in Ft. Meade, Maryland. I have been in touch with the National Security Agency requesting assistance in tracking down another example of this extraordinary invention.

As part the IEEE ceremony, the surviving members of this top-secret project will return to the site of the U.S. Naval Computing Machine Laboratory, at NCR. They will be joined by Desch's daughter, Debbie Anderson, whose persistence has helped the story be told.

I offer my congratulations on this award to all the survivors of the project and to Debbie Anderson in honor of her father.

TRIBUTE TO THE NATIONAL AFRICAN-AMERICAN CHRISTIAN SINGLES CONFERENCE

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 17, 2001

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 15th Annual National African-American Christian Singles Conference being held October 19–21, 2001, at the J.W. Marriott and Exhibition Center in Houston, Texas. Under the leadership of Pastor Joe Samuel Ratliff, the Singles Ministry of Brentwood Baptist Church of Houston will serve as the official host of the conference.

Dr. Joe Samuel Ratliff has been the pastor of Brentwood Baptist Church since 1980. Under his direction the congregation has grown from 500 members to more than 10,000. He has led the congregation in developing fourteen mission churches in various parts of the Houston metropolitan.

In 1986, Pastor Ratliff, founded the first National African-American Christian Singles' Conference. The Conference is a non-denominational event designed to address the needs and concerns of single Christian adults. Through the tireless efforts of the congregation, the conference has grown each year since its creation. It now attracts more than 1,000 singles from across the nation, and as far away as England, Germany, and Africa.

The National African-American Christian Singles Conference demonstrates Brentwood Baptist Church's commitment to promoting Christian fellowship and facilitating an environment for spiritual and cultural expression. The focus of this year's conference is, "Growth through Evangelism, Stewardship, Prayer, and Praise." This powerful weekend provides Christian singles an opportunity to become empowered, enriched and encouraged to face the challenges before them. The conference itinerary includes speakers on topics such as faith based initiatives within the community, financial stability, and neighborhood enrichment programs.

Brentwood Baptist Church has developed a Community Foundation which has made tremendous strides in the efforts to improve the quality of life in the Houston area. The Brentwood Community Foundation is a catalytic force, which seeks to empower its neighbors through programs in the arts, education, economic development, health care, and social services. Through its exemplary model of community activism, Brentwood Baptist Church has earned the respect and praise of its neighbors.

Again, I would like to recognize the 15th Annual National African-American Christian Singles Conference and congratulate the congregation on their exceptional service to the greater Houston area.

HONORING CU PROFESSOR TIM SEASTEDT FOR WEED CONTROL RESEARCH

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 17, 2001

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the important work of

University of Colorado Professor Tim Seastedt in weed control research. Professor Seastedt's exciting and path-breaking research on using insects and soil chemistry to control the spread of noxious, non-native plants holds promise in addressing a vexing—and spreading—problem, especially on our western lands.

Professor Seastedt's work was recently recognized through a \$280,000 grant awarded to him by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to continue his work of examining the soil chemistry of diffused knapweed and devising a way to develop soil nutrients that kill or hamper the growth of this problem weed in Colorado and elsewhere. Through this grant and his existing work on the role of insects in controlling the spread of weeds, Professor Seastedt is demonstrating that we can address our weed problems and do so in an effective and environmentally sensitive manner.

The nature and extent of the weed problem in the west is dramatic and serious. In Colorado alone, there are 85 species of weeds that are taking root in millions of acres of rangeland, have displaced nearly 10 percent of the state's native plant species, have destroyed habitat for bighorn sheep and other wildlife, and caused upwards of \$100 million in lost crop productivity annually. Similar impacts exist in many other states.

Weeds get here and take hold for a host of different reasons. In the case of diffused knapweed, it is theorized that this plant came over from Europe from imported alfalfa crops. But no matter how they get here, once these plants take hold they are very hard to eradicate. In North Dakota, for example, where another plant—leafy spurge—is a particularly bad problem, the state has been spending nearly \$100 million a year to control it. Such controls involve everything from herbicides, mowing, hand-pulling, and the use of grazing animals such as sheep—all to little or no effect. The plants keep coming back. In addition, some of these methods, such as the spraying of chemical herbicides, are controversial as they may be harmful to the environment.

That's where Professor Seastedt's work comes in. Given the cost, low-effectiveness and environmental concerns of these traditional methods, Professor Seastedt and his researchers began looking for better methods. He latched on to insects. For example, in the case of diffused knapweed, Professor Seastedt found that a number of species of weevil feed upon the roots, stems, seeds and flowers of this plant. So, he released a swarm of them in test plots along Colorado's Front Range, an area especially hard hit by this weed. The result: where there once were 30 stems of diffused knapweed per square meter, there now are hardly any at all. And native grasses and plants, which are not palatable to the weevils, are now making a strong return.

This story is being copied in North Dakota with the leafy spurge. There is a species of insect called flea beetles that seems to thrive on this weed with the result of reducing by half the acreage that has been affected there. This insect is now being used to control the leafy spurge problem at Colorado's Cherry Creek State Park, which has resulted in a 60 percent reduction of the growth of this weed at this popular state park.

Insects are thus proving to be an exciting tool in our arsenal against weeds. The other weapon is the new research on soil chemistry. Professor Seastedt has been studying the soil