

TRIBUTE TO DAN B. WALDEN

**HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 9, 2002*

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a very special citizen in my district. Dan B. Walden has provided continuous efforts on behalf of children and education throughout his community and throughout the state of California. Dan Walden graduated from the University of California at Berkeley with a bachelor's degree in economics. For the past 33 years he has worked at Bank of America in industrial engineering, management, planning and project management. He has recently retired. Dan Walden has served as a school board member in Walnut Creek since 1988, serving as president in both 1994 and 1995. Along with this he was extremely active in the Contra Costa County School Boards, as its president in 1991 and 1996. Not only has he served his community, but the entire State of California as well. Dan Walden was a member of the California School Boards Association's Delegate Assembly since 1991. He has also served on numerous association committees. He served as chair of the CSBA Legislative Committee and Schools and Media Crisis Communications Task Force. Dan Walden has also served as chair of the Annual Education Conference Planning Committee in 1997. His desire to help did not stay in California as he has participated on the National School Boards Association's Policies and Resolutions Committee and the NSBA Pacific Region Bylaws and Regional Nominating Committees. Apart from the School Boards Associations he has also been active in community initiatives including the Contra Costa County Partners in Education, Project R.E.A.D. and the Walnut Creek Library Foundation, which he served as its first president. Dan Walden is now the outgoing President of the California School Boards Association for the 2002 year. I am very grateful for all of the hard work that Dan Walden has done in our community, the State of California and our country.

THE MILITARY PHYSICIAN EQUITY ACT

**HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 9, 2002*

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge support for the Military Physician Equity Act. This legislation will level the playing field for Uniformed Services (Title 37) physicians so that they have the option of receiving the same annuities as civil service physicians (NIH, HHS etc.) and Veterans Affairs (VA) physicians.

Currently, civil service physicians (Title 5) and VA physicians (Title 38) are allowed to have their recruitment/retention bonuses counted as part of their "high-three" for purposes of determining their retirement annuity. The "high-three" is the system whereby one's highest three consecutive salaries are used to determine an annuity. By allowing for recruitment/retention bonuses to be counted as one's salary, a retiree receives a bigger retire-

ment check each month from his former employer. We do not feel it is just that Title 5 and Title 38 physicians should have received this benefit while military physicians do not. Our bill does not create any unique benefit; it only allows Title 37 military physicians to receive the same benefit that other Federal physicians receive.

In addition to the fairness issue, it is also a matter of good policy. The government cannot pay physicians on the same scale as physicians employed in hospitals, HMOs, and universities. Consequently, enhancing the benefits of our military physicians is an essential way to retain our best doctors. Passage of this bill would help offset the loss of income for Federal physicians if they choose to remain a public servant. This important legislation helps ensure that the government can recruit and retain highly trained and well-qualified physicians and I urge my colleagues to support it.

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE  
PLACER HERALD'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 9, 2002*

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to recognize the 150th Anniversary of my hometown newspaper, the Placer Herald, which traces its roots to the first printing press used in California.

On September 11, 1852, the first edition of the Placer Herald was published for 25 cents per copy in Auburn, California, not far from where gold had been discovered a few years earlier. Established by Tabb Mitchell, Richard Rust, and John McElroy to serve the mining community in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada, the newspaper was housed in a plain, board-sided storefront office. As an interesting historical note, the paper was printed on California's very first printing press—the one that Sam Brannan had brought to publish The California Star.

In 1892, a new, two-story brick building measuring 30 feet by 75 feet was erected on the site of the Placer Herald's original headquarters. After changing hands many times over the subsequent years, new owners moved the paper in 1963 to Rocklin, California, where it continues to be published.

I wish to commend the modern Placer Herald for its ongoing service to the people of Rocklin and neighboring communities. For 150 years, it has maintained its heritage of reporting local news to a segment of California's Gold Country. The newspaper serves a valuable purpose by both reflecting and shaping the community it serves. As we celebrate the Placer Herald's sesquicentennial, let me add my wishes that the newspaper will flourish for another century and a half!

ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISTS  
MUST STOP BLOCKING SENSIBLE  
WILDFIRE PREVENTION EFFORTS

**HON. DOUG BEREUTER**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 9, 2002*

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member commends to his colleagues the following editorial from the August 3, 2002, Norfolk Daily News. The editorial emphasizes the need for proper forest management in order to prevent disastrous wildfires. Unfortunately, as the editorial indicates, all too often sensible management plans designed to reduce wildfire threats have been delayed or defeated by environmental activists.

[From the Norfolk (NE) Daily News, Aug. 3, 2002]

ACTIVISTS HAVE TO SHARE BLAME

The extreme environmental groups accused of contributing to the wildfires in the West this year are scrambling like mad to say it wasn't their fault. But as a recent report shows, they in fact have a lot to answer for:

The report comes from the U.S. Forest Service, and as press accounts note, it shows that administrative appeals delayed almost half of 326 projects last year that were aimed at lowering the wildfire threat through the hacking away of underbrush and small trees. Those making the appeals, of course, were more often than not environmental groups.

In response, the environmental groups maintain that what they're actually doing is trying to save the forests from the awful, dreadful timber industry, as if anytime the timber industry profits, life on this planet has somehow worsened. It's true that removing the biggest and oldest trees does not serve fire-prevention purposes, but that's not what the projects aimed to do. And meanwhile, it's also true that the preferred solution of environmental activists—controlled burns—is often no solution at all.

The problem with controlled burns, in addition to being extraordinarily expensive, is that the unwise suppression of natural fires over many decades has led to a buildup of what wildfires like to feed on, namely all that underbrush and all those small trees.

The consequence is that the burns cannot be controlled, as was amply illustrated two years ago when one such attempt destroyed 200 homes in Los Alamos, N.M. That burn was also mismanaged, but there are fewer and fewer stretches of forest where even the best management can be assured of keeping such burns from getting out of hand.

Thinning the forests mechanically is not only safe and effective and good for the future grandeur of the forests, but not nearly so expensive, because the timber industry helps foot the bill.

Delays in the process have to stop if we are not to see many repeat performances for this year's destruction.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN B. BEAUDOIN

**HON. JOHN E. SWEENEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 9, 2002*

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to your attention an outstanding individual, John B. Beaudoin. Mr. Beaudoin has been chosen as the 2002 recipient of the