

years passed before the United States returned the land to the Indians.

According to Pueblo tradition, the Taos tribe was created out of the sacred waters of Blue Lake. The lake, a place of ritual worship and historical importance, was under U.S. Forest Service control beginning in 1906. Instrumental in the fight for the return of Blue Lake and the surrounding wilderness, Paul, served as the key interpreter for news reporters and government officials.

Returning the lake to the tribe was strenuously opposed by some powerful opponents: U.S. Senator Clinton Anderson, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the U.S. Forest Service. Under the Anderson proposal, jurisdiction would have remained with the U.S. Forest Service, which the Pueblo considered insensitive to their religious beliefs.

In 1966, Taos Pueblo turned down \$10 million and land concessions from the federal government to settle the dispute.

My father, Stewart Udall, former Secretary of the Interior, championed the cause of returning Blue Lake to the Taos Pueblo. He met many times in the 1960's with Paul Bernal and other members of the Pueblo. My father has said many times that Paul Bernal was the "most effective leader in the fight to win back Blue Lake."

As Secretary of Interior in the 1960's, my father testified every two years before House and Senate committees to advocate for the return of Blue Lake.

In 1970, when Senator Anderson was ill and ailing but still in the Senate, an extraordinary bipartisan group of senators—Barry Goldwater (R-AZ), Fred Harris (D-Okla), and George McGovern (D-S.D.)—came together to pass the Blue Lake legislation.

President Nixon signed the legislation into law on December 15, 1970. Reflecting on his career, Richard Nixon later said that making the bill law was, "one of the most significant achievements of my administration."

Paul was a respected tribal elder, an icon whose knowledge and experience carried the native-rights movement forward for many decades. He served as Taos Pueblo tribal secretary for 24 years. He was also humble and gracious in sharing credit for restoring tribal control of the lake. During a celebration in August 1971, Paul was asked about being the leader of such a monumental struggle. His reply, "No one man. All together. The governor, the council, all the people."

I was honored to have known this distinguished man, and his death is a great loss for all of us. However, I am certain Paul would not have wanted his death to create a void where his work is concerned. We can all learn from this accomplished man and continue his work for Native American sovereignty and spiritual integrity of the land. There could be no better tribute to such a man as Paul Bernal.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION  
IN SUPPORT OF DESIGNATION  
AND GOALS OF HIRE A VETERAN  
WEEK

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 24, 2003*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, as our nation honors and supports the ongoing efforts of our

troops in Iraq and prays for the safety of all of our uniformed men and women still in the Gulf and Afghanistan, now is also an opportune time for Congress to do more to help our nation's new and old veterans in need. To this end, I am introducing legislation to urge the establishment of a "National Hire a Veteran Week" and to urge a presidential proclamation calling upon employers, labor organizations, veterans service organizations, and federal, state, and local governmental agencies to employ more veterans.

In spite of the best efforts of the U.S. Departments of Defense, Labor, and Veterans Affairs, imposing barriers continue to impede many deserving veterans from securing employment and achieving self-sufficiency. Unfortunately, many veterans struggle to find jobs, even with opportunities for increased training and education offered through government programs. Little more than half of our nation's veterans are employed today. Most startlingly, according to the 2000 Census, nearly 20 percent of Gulf War veterans are unemployed.

Moreover, it is troubling and shameful that so many of our veterans who risked their own lives to defend our freedom can't find jobs and must endure homelessness and lives of poverty after they return home. Indeed, American veterans comprise one-third of the homeless male population in America, while an estimated 250,000 veterans live on our city streets. In fact, the number of homeless Vietnam War veterans today exceeds the number of service persons who died during that war.

Mr. Speaker, even as we tend to the well-being of our men and women currently on active duty, we cannot forget those who have already served their country and deserve more assistance in moving to the next phase of their civilian lives. A presidential proclamation of "National Hire a Veteran Week" would provide an effective and more focused way to do more to help all of our veterans find good jobs and ensure better living standards for themselves and their families. I hope that all of my colleagues will support this legislation and will take one more step to help repay the debt we owe to all of our nation's defenders. I also hope it can be promptly enacted and signed into law in the next few weeks.

CELEBRATING NEW YORK'S  
DOMINICAN DAY PARADE

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 25, 2003*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to one of New York's oldest celebrations of Dominican culture, Manhattan's Dominican Day Parade.

The annual parade, which once ran through the heart of Washington Heights, has grown to become one of August's most anticipated celebrations of cultural and ethnic pride on New York's Sixth Avenue.

This year's parade on August 10th not only comes on the heels of the Dominican Republic's hosting of the 14th edition of the Pan-American Games, it also kicks off Dominican Heritage Week in New York City. From then to August 16th, New Yorkers of all ages will get a chance to learn about some of the ways in which this vibrant community is transforming the Nation.

We have begun to hear of Dominicans and Dominican-Americans in the context of stars like baseball slugger Sammy Sosa, designer Oscar de la Renta, and Miss Universe 2002 Amelia Vega. However, there are hundreds of Dominican professionals and an increasing amount of Dominican students that are blazing trails in government, law, science, and technology. They understand that they stand on the shoulders of not only the sacrifices that their parents have made but also on the achievements of members of other freedom-loving people.

In many ways, their journey is similar to other immigrant groups that have landed on our shores. But make no mistake, the people of the Dominican Republic have a style all their own. They are part of the wonderful mosaic that is America whose continuing empowerment can only help this country reach its full potential as a democracy.

HONORING HOUSTON WALES—INTERN  
IN MY WASHINGTON, DC  
OFFICE

**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, July 25, 2003*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Mr. Houston Wales, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in national government.

Houston will be a freshman in the fall at the University of Missouri-Columbia and has distinguished himself as an intern in my Washington office by serving the great people of the 6th District of Missouri. Houston joined my staff for the 108th Congress as part of the House of Representatives intern program at the United States Capitol in Washington, D.C., a program designed to involve students in the legislative process through active participation. Through this program, Houston has had the opportunity to observe firsthand the inner workings of national government and has gained valuable insight into the process by which laws are made.

During his time as an intern in my office, Houston has successfully demonstrated his abilities in the performance of such duties as conducting research, helping with constituent services, and assuming various other responsibilities to make the office run as smoothly as possible. Houston has earned recognition as a valuable asset to the entire U.S. House of Representatives and my office through the application of his knowledge and skills acquired prior to his tenure as an intern and through a variety of new skills he has acquired while serving the people of Missouri and our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Mr. Houston Wales for his many important contributions to the U.S. House of Representatives during the current session, as well as joining with me to extend to him our very best wishes for continued success and happiness in all his future endeavors.