

on our success in improving the health of minority and other medically underserved populations.

I am a proud cosponsor of H.R. 918, the Patient Navigator, Outreach, and Chronic Prevention Act. This legislation would set up patient navigator systems, which would provide patients with a trained navigator "buddy" from their own community, who speaks their own language, and who will act as their advocate in navigating the health care system. This program would do wonders to increase awareness of programs and services in minority communities, and provide an opportunity to empower impacted communities in the fight against cancer.

By passing legislation like H.R. 918 and lending support to National Minority Cancer Awareness Week, we can reduce and ultimately eliminate the disparate burden of cancer and other diseases on minority and medically underserved communities. I urge my colleagues to support both of these important initiatives.

CLEAN WATER ON EARTH DAY

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise this afternoon to recognize Earth Day and discuss the clean water challenges facing America. Over the last three decades our nation has made significant progress in addressing the pollution of lakes, streams, rivers and estuaries. However, these crucial gains in water quality are in jeopardy of being lost. The wastewater treatment facilities that have been the cornerstone of the Clean Water Act's success are now in need of critical upgrades and the resources for this environmental imperative are no where to be found.

The Government Accounting Office, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Water Infrastructure Network have all found a wastewater infrastructure funding gap in excess of \$500 billion, over the next 20 years. These assessments come at a time when we continue to reduce the federal commitment to clean water infrastructure. The FY 2005 Administration budget calls for less than \$2 billion in federal investment for both wastewater and drinking water infrastructure. This declining investment in America's clean water comes at a time when we are providing nearly \$4 billion to Iraq for water infrastructure.

The time has come for our nation to rededicate itself to the importance of clean water and the infrastructure which makes it possible. It is time for Congress and the Administration to give serious consideration to making significant new investments in clean water infrastructure. We have dedicated funding sources to support our highway, aviation, and navigation infrastructure and it is now incumbent upon us to find similar funding support our nation's most critical infrastructure—water infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, I have introduced legislation to reauthorize the Clean Water State Revolving Fund in the last three Congresses that would increase the federal investment in clean water infrastructure ten-fold. This investment would help clean our environment and help our

economy by producing thousands of new, good paying jobs. Unfortunately, this year's version of this important legislation is being held up over ideological issues that have nothing to do with cleaning up the environment or providing future Americans and our habitats with clean, safe water.

I call on my colleagues this Earth Day to reflect on the importance of water in our daily lives and provide the infrastructure that makes clean water possible with funding that it requires.

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MOUNT VERNON-LEE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, Mr. MORAN and I rise today to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce (MVLCC) located in Fairfax County, Virginia.

Since 1954, the MVLCC has provided dedicated service to southeast Fairfax County, working tirelessly to promote business development and success. The chamber has effectively created an environment in which both well-established and new businesses can thrive. With regard to public policy, the MVLCC has powerfully advocated local business priorities, working with local, state, and federal officials on economic, transportation, and public safety issues.

In addition, the MVLCC plays an active role in local tourism, providing helpful information on hotels, restaurants, and points of interests to visitors in the area. Recently, the chamber contributed greatly to the community-based efforts responsible for bringing the National Museum of the United States Army to Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

Over the years, the MVLCC has demonstrated great commitment to the entire Mt. Vernon-Lee area. Having recognized the importance of education to a strong community, the MVLCC grants scholarships to six graduating high school students each year. The MVLCC and its members run a weekly Meals on Wheels delivery route to provide warm and friendly meals to home-bound members of the community.

Since its inception in 1954, the MVLCC has proven an invaluable asset to the Mt. Vernon-Lee community, helping make southeastern Fairfax County a great place to live, learn, work, do business, and visit. We greatly appreciate the chamber's notable contributions to Northern Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, we would like to commend and congratulate the MVLCC on fifty years of success. They have served the interests of both their members and their community well, truly meriting recognition. We call upon our colleagues to join us in applauding the MVLCC's past accomplishments and in wishing the chamber continued success in the many years to come.

HONORING LANE TECH HIGH SCHOOL

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Lane Tech High School of Chicago for its achievement on winning the third place title in the citywide Academic Decathlon and the fourth place position at the Illinois Academic Decathlon competition on March 13, 2004.

The Academic Decathlon is a team competition wherein students are tested through a diverse group of scholastic categories including: art, economics, essay interview, language and literature, mathematics, music science, social science and speech.

With up to nine members from each team competing in all ten events of the decathlon and representing a diversity of scholastic aptitude, the true spirit of this year's "America: The Growth of a Nation" theme has been advanced.

The decathlon, which was first created by Dr. Robert Peterson, has helped maximize the learning potential of young minds through competitive challenge. Lane Tech High School has demonstrated its ability to shine among the best and brightest of Chicago's academic community.

As finalists in the citywide Academic Decathlon, the nine students from Lane Tech High School went on to compete in the Illinois Academic Decathlon, participating in the semifinals of one of the most prestigious high school academic competitions in the United States.

I commend each of our Lane Tech competitors: Carlos Becerril, Moiz Bhari, Rosa Alamo, Jennifer Brown, Jason Thomas, Kristin Stein, Abdulmajid Umer, Linda Ta, Xenia Basarab, Dessislavia Harizanova, Sheraz Khan, Lenny Soez Ocasio and Peter Porok.

Reaching this level of competition is a tremendous achievement and deserves special recognition. Lane Tech students set the standard for scholastic excellence that the Academic Decathlon seeks to attain.

Mr. Speaker, I join with all residents of the Fifth Congressional District of Illinois in congratulating Lane Tech High School on its achievement. I wish the Academic Decathlon winners the best of luck and continued success as their education continues. I am very proud of these young and future leaders of tomorrow. It is my privilege to represent them in the U.S. Congress.

TRIBUTE TO COOPERATION IN RESTORATION OF DAMAGED PUBLIC LANDS

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 22, 2004

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, the public lands are the property of all the American people, and we all have a stake in their condition. That's why it's encouraging to see various groups working together to remedy problems on those lands.