a positive difference. On October 21, family and friends as well as the grateful recipients of Rich Geha's kind service and financial support to non-profit organizations, will gather to acknowledge his years of community service. I join them in appreciation for his commitment to excellence.

HONORING HEALTHSOURCE SAGINAW, INC.

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 6, 2005

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to honor the administration and staff of HealthSource Saginaw, Inc. For 75 years, this facility has provided superior medical care to patients throughout the Saginaw area, and on October 21, they shall break ground on a new, larger facility.

Originally known as Saginaw County Hospital, HealthSource Saginaw was established by county officials in 1930 as a tuberculosis sanitarium. In 1991, it became a Municipal Health Facility Organization and qualified for non-profit status with the Internal Revenue Service. Throughout the years, it has maintained a vision to offer the finest care available, care that meets and exceeds the latest in healthcare, communications, and information technology. At the same time, HealthSource Saginaw has continued to provide the quality level of compassion for which it is known for throughout the State of Michigan.

With 319 inpatient beds, HSS is comprised of three divisions: Behavioral Medicine Services, an Extended Care Center, and a Medical Rehabilitation Center. They offer specialty services such as inpatient and outpatient Chemical Dependency and Mental Health care and treatment, restorative care, physical, occupational, and speech therapy, and the region's only inpatient adolescent mental health program. They receive accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities and the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, who have given them the most optimal level of distinction for their hospital level services.

In addition to its non-profit status, HSS receives significant funding from Medicare, Medicaid, and of course through the support of Saginaw County residents, who have authorized a millage to help with costs. Over 99 percent of their total budget, including funds received by the millage, is earmarked for direct patient care, with the remaining one percent slated for equipment.

Mr. Speaker, it is indeed an honor and a pleasure for me to have this opportunity to recognize this outstanding group of medical professionals. Many families have benefited from their care and services. The staff considers it their duty and privilege to protect and defend human dignity and the quality of life for their patients. I am grateful for HealthSource Saginaw's commitment to go beyond the ordinary when providing healthcare services, and I ask my colleagues in the 109th Congress to please join me in congratulating and wishing them well on their expansion.

STATEMENT IN REMEMBRANCE OF KENNETH SMITH

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 6, 2005

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sorrow I announce the passing of Kenneth Smith of Manahawkin, New Jersey, after a long battle with cancer. Ken dedicated his life toward enhancing the sandy beaches, not only of New Jersey, but of the entire nation.

Ken Smith was a tireless and dedicated advocate for protecting and enhancing our beaches. He knew how much they mean to our state and national economies, and he fought tenaciously to assure the federal government gave beach preservation the priority it deserves. For over a quarter of a century, Ken was America's ''Coastal Advocate.''

Ken spent eight years as a Vice President and as a Director of the American Shore and Beach Preservation (ASBPA); and is a co-founder of the Alliance for a Living Ocean, formed in response to the terrible summer when garbage and other pollution was washing up on the Jersey shore in 1987. The Alliance for a Living Ocean won the Governor's Award for Volunteerism in 1999. Ken, known as ASBPA's ''Tenacious Bulldog at the Beach,'' won the organization's prestigious Morrough P. O'Brien Award in 1999, followed by its Lifetime Achievement Award in 2004.

The millions of tourists who come to visit and enjoy our beaches each year from across the nation and from around the world, as well as ail those whose communities are protected from the ravages of storms by these same dunes and healthy beaches, owe Ken a debt of gratitude for all that he accomplished. Ken was the leading force in bringing an awareness to so many people about the importance of working together to preserve not only our beaches and oceans, but the environment and our natural resources as a whole. His dedication to not only protecting the beaches but educating people on the importance of preservation was unparalleled.

I extend my sympathies to his wife, Pat, and to his entire family and hope that these words of appreciation will comfort them in their time of sorrow.

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES RECOVERY ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 29, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3824) to amend and reauthorize the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to provide greater results conserving and recovering listed species, and for other purposes:

Ms. ESHOO of California. Mr. Chairman, I rise to oppose the Pombo bill and in support of the reforms in the substitute amendment offered by Representatives GEORGE MILLER and SHERWOOD BOEHLERT.

The Endangered Species Act is a cornerstone of environmental protection. I'm very proud that one of my predecessors in the Congress, Pete McCloskey, was a leader in enacting this bipartisan law.

After more than 30 years, it's worth reevaluating and updating this law to better meet its objectives. I understand some of the frustrations that constituents have with the current law, but I don't think we should throw ''the baby out with the bathwater'' as the underlying bill would do.

While critics rightfully point out that we need to do more to help endangered species recover so they can be removed from the endangered list, the fact is the Endangered Species Act has been highly successful, with 99 percent of species listed under the ESA being saved from extinction.

I have very deep concerns about the bill before us today.

First, the bill requires the Federal Government to pay developers' costs in complying with the Endangered Species Act whenever even a portion of a property is impacted. There's no limit on the compensation payments that would be paid. The Congressional Budget Office has said this is a new entitlement that will increase spending by billions of dollars and establish a dangerous precedent. Imagine, for example, the Federal Government paying a factory owner for the costs of complying with the Clean Air Act when a decision is made to expand the plant. That's the principle this bill will establish. It's an extraordinary mistake.

Second, the bill removes protections against the use of hazardous pesticides. It's estimated that 67 million birds die each year from the effects of pesticides. These protections must be kept in place. One of the reasons the Endangered Species Act was adopted in the first place was to address declines in the population of the bald eagle caused by DDT.

Third, the bill strips the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of its role in administering the Endangered Species Act, transferring it to the Department of Interior with no assurance whatsoever that this agency will have the resources or the expertise to take on this responsibility.

Fourth, the bill reduces the role of science by ending the current requirement that Federal agencies consult with wildlife biologists before undertaking actions that might harm endangered species.

The Miller-Boehlert Substitute makes great sense if we want to capitalize on the successes and the lessons of the last 30-plus years.

The substitute will repeal the current requirement that the Secretary designate ''critical habitat'' for endangered fish, wildlife, and plants *before* formulating a plan for species recovery. Instead, the substitute requires real habitat recovery efforts to conserve rare and threatened fish and wildlife. It ensures that recovery plans include the best possible science and that they're enforceable.

The substitute directs the Secretary to first determine whether public lands are sufficient to protect and save the endangered species before taking other measures that will impact private landowners.

The substitute will help small landowners who may not have the resources to comply with the Act. It will provide dedicated funding for technical assistance for these private property owners and establish a conservation grants program for landowners who help conserve the species on or near their property. It