

society." These isolation laws, dating back to 1865, were not abolished until 1969.

Although the World Health Organization still documents over a million registered cases of Hansen's disease worldwide, today it is considered one of the least contagious of all communicable diseases due to established and successful drug treatments. In Hawaii, those needing medical treatment outside of Kalaupapa are able to go to the Hale Mohalu wing of Leahi Hospital in Honolulu.

However, that is now, and the history of Kalaupapa is otherwise. Between 1866 and 1896, the first 5,000 individuals were forcibly relocated to Kalaupapa, most of whom lived at Kalawao. The second wave of patients (approximately 3,000) occurred after 1896 until 1969, when most of the community lived on the Kalaupapa side of the peninsula. Most of these unfortunate fellow citizens died on the peninsula; while many of their final resting places are known and remembered, many are not.

It is right and appropriate that these many lives be remembered, both individually and collectively, within the boundaries of the world to which they were condemned for life, through maintenance of the park itself, the history of the settlement, and an appropriate memorial. Ka Ohana O Kalaupapa, a non-profit organization consisting of patient residents at Kalaupapa National Historical Park and their family members and friends, was established in August 2003 for just this purpose: to promote the value and dignity of the 8,000+ individuals (at least 90 percent of who were Native Hawaiian) who were forcibly relocated to the Kalaupapa Peninsula.

Since its establishment, Ka Ohana O Kalaupapa has sought to honor and perpetuate the memory of these 8,000+ individuals through the establishment of a memorial at a suitable location or locations at Kalawao or Kalaupapa within the boundaries of Kalaupapa National Historical Park. I fully support its efforts, which have broad-based support from the Kalaupapa Advisory Council and the community.

The national and international significance of Kalaupapa is the rich and tragic history of the lives and memories of those individuals who were forcibly relocated to the Kalaupapa Peninsula between 1866 and 1969. It is fitting and appropriate that our nation, through the National Park Service, ensure that they are never forgotten through the establishment of a memorial.

I therefore believe that the establishment of a memorial is consistent with the basis for the park's establishment. It is timely. And it will enhance the purpose of the park, which is to "preserve and interpret the Kalaupapa settlement for the education and inspiration of present and future generations."

I look forward to working with my House colleagues, particularly members of the House Resources Committee, the National Park Service, and the Hawaii congressional delegation, in passing this legislation.

TRAIL RESPONSIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR THE LANDS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill, and congratulate my Colorado colleague, Mr. TANCREDO, for his leadership in introducing it.

I joined as a cosponsor of this bill because I also want to improve the ability of the land-managing agencies to adequately enforce the rules that apply to uses of the federal lands.

That is why in the 108th Congress I introduced a related bill—the Responsible Off-road Vehicle Enforcement and Response Act, or "ROVER." That bill was narrow, dealing only with enforcement of the regulations for use of vehicles on National Forest lands and public lands managed by BLM. This bill goes much further. In addition to the forests and BLM lands, it also applies to lands managed by the National Park Service and the refuges managed by the Fish and Wildlife Service. And it addresses the enforcement of all regulations, not just those related to use of vehicles.

Last year, Mr. TANCREDO and I worked with Chairman POMBO, Ranking Member RAHALL, and other Members of the Resources Committee, to develop the broader measure.

That bill passed the House, but the Senate did not complete action on it. So, Representative TANCREDO and I joined in reintroducing it as H.R. 975, the bill now before the House.

I urge its approval, because legislation for better and more consistent enforcement of regulations is needed. However, we need to recognize that it is only one part of a bigger picture.

Even more than new legislation, it seems to me, the land-managing agencies need more resources—more money and more people—if we want them to do a better job.

That was why I introduced a related bill—H.R. 599—which the Resources Committee has also reported. It would allow the agencies to use money from fines to help pay for some of the restoration work caused by violations of regulations, as well as for offsetting the administrative costs involved in enforcement of those regulations.

This is something that I think should be addressed in the future, and I will seek to work with other Members to do that. Today, however, we can take an important step forward by passing this bill, and I urge the House to approve it.

HONORING THE WORK OF EASTER SEALS OF SOUTHERN NEVADA

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the extraordinary efforts of Easter Seals in Southern Nevada. Their numerous programs provide the kind of community-based relief for individuals with disabilities and their families.

Unfortunately, one of these most valuable programs is facing significant financial hardship. This particular program has provided after school activities for children with disabilities from the age of 6 to 18 for the past 15 years. Without the help of business leaders and private individuals in the community, these children and their families will lose this most important resource. As a whole, Easter Seals is Nevada's largest community-based organization serving over 2,000 persons with disabilities and their families each year. Their efforts on behalf of individuals with disabilities bring greater self-sufficiency and most importantly greater dignity. We must work to ensure that these resources continue to be available in the community.

Mr. Speaker, I hope to bring to the attention of my colleagues the wonderful services that Easter Seals of Southern Nevada provides to the most vulnerable in our society. The needs of this single program highlight how we, as Members of Congress, must continue all of our efforts to strengthen the resources available to the neediest in our communities.

Easter Seals of Southern Nevada represents the ideal of a community-based care provider for disabled children. Without the generosity of all the individuals who make this dream a reality, these most valuable resources would fail to exist. I am confident that, during this holiday season, the businesses and individuals of Nevada will show their support for this important program and continue to demonstrate the generosity of my home community.

THE SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL ON-SITE STORAGE SECURITY ACT OF 2005

HON. JIM MATHESON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, Nevada Senators HARRY REID and JOHN ENSIGN introduced federal legislation today to mandate that nuclear waste be stored on-site at nuclear power plant sites. I'm proud to join my colleague from Nevada, SHELLEY BERKLEY, in introducing legislation in the House to mandate that nuclear waste be stored on-site.

The West—whether it is Utah's Skull Valley or Nevada's Yucca Mountain—should not be the de facto dumping ground for nuclear waste. Storing nuclear waste on site is the safest, most reasonable and most effective way of allowing nuclear power plants to continue operating while we search for an appropriate long-term storage solution.

The Utah and Nevada delegations are united on this—JIM GIBBONS and JON PORTER from Nevada, and CHRIS CANNON and ROB BISHOP from my home state of Utah have joined in this fight on the House side and our senators, BOB BENNETT and ORRIN HATCH are cosponsors of the Senate bill.

Under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, the federal government has so far only focused on the flawed Yucca Mountain proposal for a central repository for spent nuclear fuel rods. Given the wealth of concerns about incomplete scientific evidence and falsified documentation stemming from the Yucca proposal and the clear gaps in transportation security for waste sent to the West, on-site storage is a much better solution.