

recognized as the leading advocate of veterans in Congress, responsible for legislation to compensate veterans and their families for the effects of Agent Orange, help Persian Gulf and women veterans, and those now returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. The veterans' service organizations have honored Lane with their highest awards.

Lane Evans has always been a leader in the fight for universal health care. Although Parkinson's disease has forced him to end his productive service in the House, he always acknowledges how fortunate he is to be able to afford the best care, while so many Americans are not. He has become an advocate for expanding funding for research into the cure for Parkinson's and many other diseases that might benefit from government-funded embryonic stem cell research.

When Lane Evans retired from the House of Representatives last year, Senator DURBIN said the following: "There are two kinds of courage in this world. There is physical courage, which is rare. Then there is even a rarer commodity, moral courage. Once in a great while you find someone who has both. Lane Evans is that person." I could not agree with Senator DURBIN more.

I miss Lane Evans' presence in the Halls of Congress on a day-to-day basis. However, my sadness is easily deflected by Lane's legacy that will ever be reflected in the improved lives of the veterans of the United States and all the working families who will continue to benefit from his outstanding service.

I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 521.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO DESIGNATE THE THIRD FLOOR OF THE ELLIS ISLAND IMMIGRATION MUSEUM AS THE "BOB HOPE MEMORIAL LIBRARY"

**HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 31, 2007*

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to encourage my colleagues' strong support of legislation that I have introduced to designate the third floor library of the Ellis Island Immigration Museum as the "Bob Hope Memorial Library." I would also like to thank Representative GALLEGLY for his assistance with this bill. I believe that it is important to honor Bob Hope, an American Citizen, who immigrated through Ellis Island and who contributed so greatly to the American people and culture.

Most Americans remember Bob Hope for his work in the entertainment business as a comedian, actor, dancer, and singer as well as his work with American troops abroad. But, what few know is that Bob Hope was an immigrant from England. He is sometimes even referred to as America's most famous immigrant, whose life epitomizes the "American Dream." After a long period of restoration, Ellis Island was turned into a museum in 1990 with the purpose for people to come and remember the 16 million immigrants who passed through Ellis Island from 1892–1954 to pursue the American Dream. Bob Hope embodies that American Dream which so many immigrants

sought and I believe that naming the library after this great American is a fitting tribute.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL TO PROVIDE PERMANENT FUNDING FOR THE PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES (PILT) PROGRAM

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 31, 2007*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, together with my Colorado colleague, Representative JOHN SALAZAR, I am again introducing legislation to provide permanent funding for two programs that are very important to counties and other local units of government in Colorado and many other States.

Our bill is identical to one we introduced in the 109th Congress. Under the bill, the full amounts authorized under both the payments in lieu of taxes, PILT, program and the refuge revenue sharing program would be made available to the Secretary of the Interior annually, for distribution to eligible local governments in accordance with those programs.

This would eliminate the requirement for annual appropriations for PILT and refuge revenue sharing purposes and would shield them against the kind of political short-sightedness demonstrated in the presidential budget that has repeatedly failed to request full funding for PILT and has even proposed cuts from amounts Congress has previously provided.

While both programs are significant, PILT is particularly important for counties in Colorado and other States that include large expanses of Federal lands. In 2006, for example, counties in Colorado received more than \$17.4 million out of a total of more than \$232 million distributed nationwide.

Congress created the PILT program in response to a recommendation of the Public Land Law Review Commission, chaired by Representative Wayne N. Aspinall, who represented what was then Colorado's Fourth Congressional District. It reflected a recognition that a system of payments based on acreage was more equitable and reliable than one tied to management decisions such as timber harvests or other uses.

Counties use their PILT payments for a wide variety of purposes, including some—such as law enforcement, fire fighting, and search and rescue—that are directly related to the Federal lands within their boundaries and the people who use those lands.

For nearly two decades after the program was established, PILT funding remained level but the value of PILT payments was eroded by inflation. In 1995, Congress amended the law to raise the authorization level. However, since 1995, no budget request—from either President Clinton or President Bush—has requested more than two-thirds of the amount authorized by the PILT Act. As a result, the burden on county taxpayers has not been reduced to the extent that Congress intended when it passed the 1995 legislation. Our bill would ensure full implementation of that legislation.

HONORING HENRY M. THOMAS III

**HON. RICHARD E. NEAL**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 31, 2007*

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday night, January 24, 2007, the University of Massachusetts presented Henry M. Thomas III of Springfield, MA, with its Distinguished Service Award. This award recognizes the "demonstrated leadership" and "exemplary accomplishments" of an individual, and I can think of no one more worthy than my friend Henry Thomas.

Henry Thomas is a life-long friend of mine and I would like to extend at this time my heartfelt congratulations to him upon receiving this prestigious honor. I would like to include in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD today a history of Henry Thomas's accomplishments and dedication to the city of Springfield, social activism and education. Congratulations Henry on an award that is well-deserved.

DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT AWARD PRESENTED TO HENRY M. THOMAS III, JANUARY 24, 2007.

No one in our time has made greater civic contributions to western Massachusetts than Henry M. Thomas III, or shown greater courage and resolve in doing so. His record of achievement during the past three and a half decades has been dazzling in its depth and diversity.

Thomas is president and chief executive officer of the Urban League of Springfield Inc., which he joined in 1971 as youth and education director. The Urban League serves the African American community by promoting through advocacy and services the academic and social development and the economic self-sufficiency of young people and families. It also fosters racial inclusion and social justice.

Thomas showed an early aptitude for leadership. Within 4 years he was promoted to director of voter registration and education at the Springfield Urban League, and then to deputy director. In 1975, when only 25 years old, he was named president and CEO, the youngest person ever so appointed in an Urban League affiliate. He is a past president of the National Urban League Executives and served for 2 years as vice president for youth development at the New York office of the National Urban League, developing infrastructure to support inner-city youth.

Many other institutions and organizations have been touched by Thomas's energetic idealism and executive skill. As the first African American chairman of the Springfield Fire Commission from 1985 to 1998, he demonstrated a courageous willingness to challenge a rule that forbade fire department applicants from having an arrest record, as opposed to a conviction—this at a time when blacks and Latinos were frequently arrested on spurious grounds. Ten years later, as the first black chairman of the Springfield Police Commission, Thomas received death threats after granting three African Americans promotions to sergeant.

In January 2006, Governor Mitt Romney appointed Thomas vice chairman of the Massachusetts Board of Education, on which he had served since 2001. Thomas was also recently appointed to the transition team of Governor Deval Patrick.

Camp Atwater in North Brookfield, MA, the Nation's oldest African American summer youth residential camp, has long benefited from Thomas's support: he reopened it in 1980 following a 6-year hiatus and serves

as its CEO. He also serves on a number of local and national boards and commissions. Thomas founded and is the presiding chairman of the board of Springfield's New Leadership Charter School, is a member of the board of the American Camping Association, and chairs the board of trustees of the Springfield Cable Endowment. He founded and is a co-chairman of Step Up Springfield and is on the executive committee of the Hamden County Regional Employment Board.

An earnest and inspired educator, Thomas has been a visiting professor in the Master's of Regional Planning Program at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and at Curry College in Milton, Massachusetts. He hosts a weekly community talk show, "Urban League Community Focus," now in its 15th year on Springfield radio station WTCC.

Thomas grew up in Springfield, where at Technical High School he was his class's only black gymnast. Equally adept on the gridiron, he was offered dozens of college football scholarships and accepted one at American International College in Springfield. There he founded the black student organization and earned a bachelor's degree in psychology in 1971 and a master's degree in human resource development 2 years later. In 1983 he received a jurisprudence doctorate from Western New England College School of Law. Thomas has called his law degree "an invaluable tool for dealing with government officials, community leaders, and the business aspects of running a multimillion-dollar nonprofit agency. . . . Virtually every area of my work involves law in some degree."

He has also received honorary doctorates from Westfield State College and Bay Path College. In 1999, he received an Executive Leadership Program Certificate from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

Thomas gives enormous credit to his wife, Devonia J. Thomas, for the support and encouragement she has provided throughout his career. The Thomases have been married for 35 years and live in Springfield's historic Forest Park neighborhood in a home well stocked with books and artifacts reflecting their love of African American history and African art, especially Shona art from what is now Zimbabwe. Their son, Perren, is an investment banker on Wall Street. Their daughter, Shadae, is a fourth-grade teacher in Cambridge, MA. Thomas relaxes by playing racquetball and the saxophone and by reading and watching a good deal of football.

## HONORING FREDERICK DOUGLASS

### HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 31, 2007*

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to humbly honor the life of one of America's most courageous pioneers in the civil rights movement—Frederick Douglass. Frederick Douglass was born 189 years ago this month, and although it has been over a century since he has walked this earth, his imprint on American history remains.

For the past 21 years, I have had the privilege of representing Rochester, New York in Congress; and the city's historic commitment to the advancement of progressive causes has always served as an inspiration to me. When I am standing on the House floor, exhausted

by another debate to protect our civil liberties, my spirit is reinvigorated when I think of Frederick Douglass' Rochester newspaper, the North Star, and the phrase printed on its masthead: "Right is of no sex—Truth is of no color—God is the Father of us all, and we are all Brethren."

Beyond being a source of inspiration, Frederick Douglass is the subject of adoration as one of America's bravest heroes. After he escaped slavery in 1838, he devoted the remainder of his life to freeing other slaves and to ending the practice of slavery itself. Upon settling in Rochester, he used the city's location near the Canadian border to lead local Underground Railroad activities, giving sanctuary to freedom seekers as they fled from slavery, oppression, and injustice.

In addition to his work in the abolitionist movement, Douglass fought to ensure that freed slaves were treated fairly. In 1863, Douglass met with President Lincoln to discuss the treatment of black soldiers in the civil war. He later met with President Andrew Johnson to discuss black suffrage. His tireless efforts in support of freedom and equality laid the ground work for future civil rights movements.

Intolerant of any injustice, Douglass worked closely with another one of Rochester's leading progressive advocates, Susan B. Anthony, to fight for women's suffrage. In fact, he used his North Star newspaper not only to denounce slavery, but also to advocate for women's rights.

Douglass found a home in Rochester among the progressive activists of the mid-1800 who fought for social reforms, the peace movement, and universal equality. It is certainly no surprise that Frederick Douglass felt a special connection to the City of Rochester, and chose to be buried here.

Madam Speaker, Frederick Douglass' persistence, perseverance, and pertinacity serve as a timeless source of inspiration for Americans struggling for freedom against today's injustices. I urge my colleagues to join with me in celebrating and honoring Frederick Douglass' birth-month. America and the City of Rochester are fortunate to have had such an outstanding leader among us. We must never forget his legacy.

## PAYING TRIBUTE TO FREDERICK A. LOHMAN AS HE RETIRES FROM THE GREATER WILKES-BARRE CHAMBER OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

### HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 31, 2007*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Madam Speaker, I ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to Mr. Frederick A. Lohman, senior vice president of real estate and asset management for the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Business and Industry, who recently announced his resignation to accept a position with Mericle Commercial Real Estate Services.

During his 19 years with the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Business and Industry, Mr.

Lohman has been responsible for all aspects of real estate development including planning, financing, development, management and disposition of real estate assets. He also served as the executive vice president of the Greater Wilkes-Barre Development Corporation and the Greater Wilkes-Barre Industrial Fund, Inc.

The Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Business and Industry is a community, economic development and business service organization charged with the mission of collaborating with community and regional partners to create quality employment and business opportunities and improve the area's quality of life through strategic planning, programs and investments.

Throughout his tenure, Mr. Lohman worked successfully with talented coworkers and dedicated volunteer community leaders to change the economic landscape of the greater Wilkes-Barre area.

He joined the chamber in 1987 as business manager. He later served as vice president, controller, senior vice president, chief financial officer and senior vice president of real estate and asset management.

Mr. Lohman contributed toward the expansion of the Crestwood and Hanover Industrial Parks and the construction of three new parks including the Corporate Center at East Mountain, Hanover Crossings and Highland Park, home to the Wachovia Arena at Casey Plaza.

The chamber was responsible for redeveloping the former Pomeroy's Department Store building into what is now Public Square Commons, a first class office building, and the former Woolworth's Five and Dime Store, which is now home to the Innovation Center, a business incubator, as well as a joint collegiate bookstore, Barnes and Noble College Booksellers.

Mr. Lohman played an integral role in one of the chamber's most aggressive efforts—the Northampton and Main Redevelopment Project, a 160,000-square-foot urban mixed use, entertainment-based, commercial and residential complex containing a 14-screen cinema, retail space and loft housing.

Lohman is a 1976 graduate of Wilkes College, now Wilkes University, and received his master's degree in 1986 from Marywood University. He previously served as municipal manager for Edwardsville Borough and Towanda Borough and as director of the Wilkes University's Small Business Development Center.

On a personal note, let me express my sincere appreciation for all the assistance Fred has provided to me throughout the years. Whenever I have called on him to assist in furthering the progress of any project that would bring jobs to the region, he has been unfailingly generous with his time and expertise. He is a truly talented professional, and I am pleased to also call him a personal friend.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mr. Lohman for his years of service to the Greater Wilkes-Barre community. The talent and dedication he brought to his role as a business development executive has paid many dividends that have improved the quality of life throughout the region, and I wish him well in his new position in the private sector.