

world's top 10 most threatened rivers, and the Santa Fe River was listed as the Nation's Most Endangered River this year by American Rivers. Research and conservation along these rivers will positively impact New Mexicans and the greater southwest region.

This bill will provide New Mexico with information and resources that will enable the state to sustainably manage and conserve its precious water resources. By facilitating comprehensive surface and groundwater studies, this bill will allow New Mexicans to make sound decisions on water resource management that will impact the entire southwestern United States.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is an important step towards sustainable water management in New Mexico and the Southwest. A comprehensive approach to hydrologic resource management is necessary to confront the challenges of New Mexico's growing communities and precarious fluctuations in climate. This bill provides New Mexico with the tools needed to meet these challenges in a sustainable manner, and I urge its passage.

ENCOURAGE COMMUNITY SAFETY
THROUGH RECIDIVISM PREVENTION

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to submit for the record an Op-Ed published in the New York Times, on July 2, 2007, entitled, "A Much-Needed Second Chance." The editorial highlights the efforts taken by Texas and Kansas to address reintegration of former inmates into their communities, as well as the lack of a federal initiative to address the challenges communities face because they do not have the social service networks that are necessary for this kind of work. Unfortunately, the current system of corrections seems far more focused on punishment than rehabilitation, an approach that exacerbates crime rather than reducing it.

One-third of all correction departments provide no services to released offenders, and most departments do not offer a transitional program, placing a heavy burden on families and communities.

Most men and women released face tremendous obstacles as they try to reenter society successfully, encountering imposing impediments to attaining gainful employment, overcoming drug addictions, gaining custody of their children, or finding affordable housing. In fact, two-thirds of those released will be arrested within three years of leaving prison.

These men and women deserve a second chance. Their families, spouses and children, deserve a second chance and their communities deserve a second chance. A second chance means an opportunity to turn a life around; a chance to break the grip of a drug habit; a chance to support a family; a chance to make positive contributions to society; and a chance to be self-sufficient.

I strongly urge you to join me and the other 91 members of Congress in encouraging community safety through recidivism prevention by cosponsoring H.R. 1593, the Second Chance Act of 2007.

[From the New York Times, July 2, 2007]

A MUCH-NEEDED SECOND CHANCE

The United States now has more than two million people behind bars, a number that has been rising steadily for decades. But state lawmakers who once would have rushed to build new prisons have begun to see that prison-building is not the best or most cost-effective way to fight crime or protect the public's safety.

Several states have instead begun to focus on developing community-based programs that deal with low-level, nonviolent offenders without locking them up. And they have begun to look at ways to control recidivism with programs that help newly released people find jobs, housing, drug treatment and mental health care—essential services if they are to live viable lives in a society that has historically shunned them.

Texas and Kansas have recently made important strides in this area. But corrections policy nationally would evolve much faster if Washington put its shoulder to the wheel. Congress needs to pass the Second Chance Act, which would provide grants, guidance and assistance to states and localities that are developing programs to reintegrate former inmates into their communities.

The states have made a good start, thanks in part to the efforts of the Council of State Governments and its prison policy arm, the Justice Center. The center's analysis of corrections patterns has led to sweeping changes in Texas, where the Legislature was facing a projected upsurge in the prison population and a projected outlay of more than a billion dollars to build several new prisons.

The surge in Texas was not being driven by crime, which had risen only slightly, but by a breakdown in the parole and probation systems, which were unable to process and supervise the necessary numbers of released prisoners. Mental health and drug treatment services were also lacking. By expanding those services, along with other community-based programs, the Legislature projects that it could potentially avoid the need for any new prisons.

A similar solution was found in Kansas, where about 65 percent of the state's admissions to prison were traced to technical violations of probation or parole, often by people with drug addictions or mental illnesses. The Legislature has expanded drug treatment behind bars and created a grant program that encourages localities to provide more effective supervision and services as a way of keeping recently released people away from crime and out of prison.

The social service networks that are necessary for this kind of work are virtually nonexistent in most communities. To put those networks together, the states need to require that disparate parts of the government apparatus work together in ways that were unheard of in the past.

It is encouraging that state officials are willing to break out of the old patterns. But they need help. The Second Chance Act would bolster the re-entry movement with money, training, technical assistance—and the federal stamp of approval.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF SERGEANT
BRUCE HORNER

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of SGT Bruce Horner, United States Army, and to celebrate his service to our country.

Sergeant Horner served in the United States Army for 18 years. His dedication and leadership skills made him an invaluable member of the 127th Military Police Academy out of Fliegerhorst, Germany. He was killed on June 1, 2007, in Baghdad, while serving his first tour in Iraq. He fulfilled his duty with honor and distinction.

Sergeant Horner had a strong relationship with his church and with God. His faith played an important part in his life and guided him. It is my sincere hope that the Horner family is strengthened by the strong faith that sustained him in life. He leaves behind his wife, Erin, and mother and father, who reside in Cleveland, Ohio. Everyone Sergeant Horner touched will be forever changed because of his influence.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring SGT Bruce Horner for his service in the defense of the nation. May his dedication to country, faith and family serve as a model for us all.

RECOGNIZING DAVID M. CROWE
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF
EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize David M. Crowe, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 395, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

David has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the years David has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending David M. Crowe for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

A TRIBUTE TO BEYOND HOUSING
IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE
PAGEDALE COMMUNITY ASSO-
CIATION

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 12, 2007

Mr. CLAY. Madam Speaker, I am honored to rise today in celebration of the efforts and improvements achieved by the Pagedale Community Association in association with Beyond Housing in the city of Pagedale.

Since 1980, Beyond Housing has assisted many St. Louisans in the 1st Congressional district. Beyond Housing has sought to provide affordable housing, propagate home ownership, and help low-economic families achieve stability. Beyond Housing has used their history of beneficial rehabilitation for St. Louis citizens to support the PCA and re-building efforts in the city of Pagedale.