

A sixth proposal was JIM SAXTON'S sponsorship of the Coral Reef Conservation and Partnership Act of 2000. Coral reefs are among the world's most productive ecosystems and they are often referred to as the "rainforests" of the oceans. These reefs are critical to the survival of thousands of fish species. Sadly, about 40 percent of all coral reefs are either degraded beyond recovery or in critical condition. This legislation was designed as a lifeline for our coral reef ecosystems by providing a limited amount of Federal funding to finance coral reef grants to assist in their protection and recovery.

Finally, I am proud that JIM SAXTON joined with me as an original co-sponsor of the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997. On October 9, 2007, we celebrated the 10th anniversary of this act which is Public Law 105-57. This landmark law established for the first time an "organic" statute for our 96 million acre national wildlife refuge system. It defined the term "wildlife-dependent recreation" to include hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, and environmental education. It also established a "conservation mission" for the system and required the completion of a Comprehensive Conservation Plan for each refuge unit. The act gave wildlife dependent recreation priority consideration in refuge planning, management and funding. Finally, it required the Fish and Wildlife Service to evaluate the likelihood of ongoing historic uses on private lands prior to their inclusion within the system. JIM SAXTON authored this important provision.

This is far from an exhaustive list of JIM SAXTON'S legislative accomplishments in the resources arena. It is representative only of the 6-year period that he served as chairman of the Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans. Nevertheless, it clearly demonstrates his dedication and commitment to wildlife conservation which he exemplified throughout his congressional career. His constituents living in Cherry Hill, Mount Holly, and Toms River, New Jersey, will miss JIM SAXTON and his lifelong advocacy of Theodore Roosevelt's vision and principles. I look forward to working with JIM through the 110th Congress. I wish him calm sailing seas in the days beyond Congress. "May the wind always be on your back and the sun shine upon your face!"

TRIBUTE TO THE WEST BOLIVAR
EAGLES

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, today I rise to congratulate the West Bolivar Eagles for completing a perfect season and Winning the Class 2A State championship. This is West Bolivar's fourth State title, but their first since 1906—before any of this year's seniors were born. West Bolivar was ranked No. 1 the entire season by the Clarion-Leggert 2A football poll.

Madam Speaker, West Bolivar High School has a rich football history. Along with four State championships, they have 17 division

championships and 5 appearances in State championship games. Over the last 3 seasons the Eagles are 37-4 and have three consecutive Region 3-2A championships.

Madam Speaker, not only have the Eagles enjoyed success this year, but they have done so dominantly. On the season, the Eagles have outscored their opponents 582-184. In the playoffs, the Eagles have outscored their opponents 177-101. The Eagles have scored 40 or more points 9 times, helping them amass more points than any team in Mississippi 2A football.

Madam Speaker, West Bolivar's recent success has come with the leadership of Coach Henry Johnson. Coach Johnson is a former West Bolivar player who played wide receiver and defensive back on the Eagles' last State finalist team under legendary Rosedale coach Leland Young.

Madam Speaker, one of the traditions that Coach Johnson restored at his alma mater was running up and down a steep Mississippi River levee.

Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate the student-athletes, student body, faculty, staff, administration, and the community of West Bolivar for winning the 2007 Mississippi Class 2A State Championship.

HONORING THE KETEWAMOKE
CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE DAUGHTERS OF
THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2007

Mr. ISRAEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Ketewamoke Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution was organized on August 9, 1890 in Washington, DC. Seventeen years later, on December 2, 1907, in the Town of Huntington, Long Island, the Ketewamoke Chapter, NSDAR was organized with 19 charter members. The name Ketewamoke is the Native American name for the region around Huntington known as "the place having the best beach or shore." The Chapter was incorporated in 1913. Today they have 88 members.

The threefold purpose of the Society as a whole is the same now as it was when the Society was organized in 1890 and chartered by an Act of Congress in 1895: "To perpetuate the memory and spirit of the men and women who achieved American independence; to promote, as an object of primary importance, institutions for the general diffusion of knowledge; to cherish, maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom, to foster true patriotism and love of country." The Ketewamoke Chapter continues to include these three objectives (historical, educational and patriotic) in its monthly programs.

One of the first accomplishments of the Ketewamoke Chapter was to restore the Village Green and mark the spot with a bronze tablet on a boulder, in 1915. inscribed, "Huntington Village Green." This "Town Spot" was

the location of Huntington's earliest form of government where, beginning from its settlement in 1653, a small group of men continued to meet and vote over the years.

Also in 1915, the Ketewamoke Chapter outfitted the original Women's Ward in Huntington Hospital with 8 beds. A bronze plaque marking this event still hangs in the old Huntington Hospital building. During World War II, when the National Society bought \$210,000,000 worth of war bonds, more than \$100,000 of these bonds were purchased by members of the Ketewamoke Chapter. Since then, the Chapter has placed mill stones from local mills at the "Town Spot" and on the grounds of the Chapter House, thus preserving local history. It has cleaned up and marked the graves of many of the local American Revolutionary soldiers. They continue to honor these patriots by placing flags on their grave sites every Memorial Day and by the Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony at Huntington's Old Burial Ground.

Currently, the Chapter works to promote patriotism through community projects. They encourage local students to appreciate American history through our annual American History Essay Contest for grades 5 through 8. They encourage students to be good citizens by awarding annual Good Citizenship medals to students of 15 local schools. These students must fulfill the qualities of honor, service, leadership and patriotism. They support other local community services through our individual volunteer efforts in hospitals, literacy programs, and veteran and senior citizen projects. They give financial support to many National and State DAR projects such as the two DAR schools in the Appalachian region and the education of Native American youths through scholarships and the support of the Bacone College and the Chemawa Indian School. We present ROTC medals to qualifying cadets in local secondary schools.

They are uniquely fortunate to be one of only a few Chapters in New York State which owns an historic Chapter House with a fine collection of period artifacts. It is their privilege and responsibility to preserve and to maintain this Chapter House which dates back to 1837.

We take great pride in being members of the Ketewamoke Chapter, NSDAR, which is the oldest established DAR Chapter on Long Island. We take pride in honoring the memory of our patriot ancestors and in honoring all American patriots, past and present.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2007

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, due to medical reasons I missed a series of suspension votes and the vote on the Motion to Instruct Conferees on H.R. 2082, Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall No. 1123, "aye" on rollcall No. 1124, "no" on rollcall No. 1125, and "aye" on rollcall No. 1126.