

In 2001, following 7 years as CEO of the Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, Rusty grabbed the reins of the Los Angeles Chamber. Under his skilled leadership, the LA Chamber was transformed into a thriving and profitable organization—the “go-to” group for area entrepreneurs and businesses of all sizes.

Rusty was also a passionate advocate for the least fortunate, and understood that good schools and a healthy environment are fundamental to the Los Angeles area’s appeal.

Rusty’s insatiable spirit was evident during his battle with cancer. He published a book—“When Cancer Calls Say Yes to Life”—which he said he wrote to help others struggling with the disease.

Madam Speaker, Rusty Hammer touched many lives. He will be missed.

HONORING TIAN-LI YUE FOR RECEIVING THE 20TH ANNUAL PHRMA DISCOVERERS’ AWARD

HON. JOE SESTAK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mr. SESTAK. Madam Speaker, each year, the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) presents awards to researchers who have made incredible contributions to the development of a revolutionary medicine that helps patients live longer, healthier lives.

Today, Tian-Li Yue received the 20th Annual PhRMA Discoverers Award from PhRMA. The Discoverers Award is PhRMA’s highest honor and is presented to the biopharmaceutical scientists whose research and development of medicines have greatly benefited mankind, and whose dedication and interest in improving the quality of life of patients exemplifies the best in the research.

This year’s award has justly been presented to a cutting-edge researcher, and my constituent, Tian-Li Yue, who works for GlaxoSmithKline located in my home state of Pennsylvania.

Therefore, on behalf of the U.S. Congress I would like to recognize Tian-Li Yue, Ph.D. for developing Coreg(r), which is used as a treatment for congestive heart failure.

His unwavering dedication and life’s work to improve the health and well being of mankind are to be commended. Patients suffering from heart failure and hypertension are forever in his debt.

IN RECOGNITION OF SISTER JOAN GALLAGHER, CSA

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Sister Joan Gallagher, in celebration of her years of kindhearted service to the less fortunate within the Northeast Ohio community.

Sister Joan is credited for her vigorous involvement in major projects that have touched the lives of so many people. Joan has been

credited for converting a former Academy into affordable housing for the less fortunate, developing a portion of a campus for the elderly seeking a God-centered environment and creating Joseph’s Home, a home for homeless men with medical problems.

For many years she has helped guide the Famicos Foundation, a community development corporation that provides housing for low-income families and seniors.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing Sister Joan Gallagher. May her years of service to the most vulnerable among us be an inspiration to us all in the world today.

HONORING THE MIAMI NORTHWESTERN SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute and congratulate the Miami Northwestern Senior High School varsity football team on being crowned the 2007 National Champions voted by ESPN’s High School Football Super 25 and winning the 2008 Florida Class 6A State title.

The Bulls have concluded the 2007–2008 season with a 15–0 season record and a second consecutive Florida Class 6A State title. The Bulls won back-to-back State championships for the first time in the School’s 50-year history. They are only the fourth team from Miami-Dade County to achieve the feat since 1963.

Since opening in the fall of 1955, Miami Northwestern Senior High School students and faculty have had a sense of pride unlike any other school in South Florida. The School opened its doors as a learning institution, and nearly 1,050 Black students who attended the School during its opening year were bused daily from Black communities throughout Dade County. Indeed, during this time period segregated schools were still existent and subsisting; thus, Northwestern became the first new high school for Miami African-Americans in a generation.

Despite the trials and tribulations the School often fought long and hard to get past, the School won its first State title before integration in 1963. After court ordered desegregation of 1970, Northwestern continued to strive within its football program. In 1995 and 1998 the School won two more State titles.

Northwestern, which has the best record of any Dade team (68–13) since 2001, boasts at least seven major Division I recruits on its roster with several others who could go to mid-major programs. Five of those seven have committed to the University of Miami. Among those is senior quarterback Jacory Harris (6–4, 170). He led an offense that scored no fewer than 28 points during the team’s winning streak. It is a known fact that the State of Florida produces one National Football League player for every three of its high schools. Northwestern has played a major part in this contribution with 20 notable graduates including: OT Vernon Carey (Miami Dolphins), DB Torrie Cox (Tampa Bay Buccaneers), WR Antonio Bryant (San Francisco 49ers), RB

Vernand Morency (Green Bay Packers) and LB Nate Webster (Denver Broncos).

William “Billy” Rolle, teacher and head football coach, graduated from Coral Gables Senior High School and later Florida A&M University. He began his teaching career in 1985 at Miami Edison Senior High School where he also began coaching football. Rolle guided Northwestern to its 1998 State title, and also led Miami Killian Senior High School to a State title in 2004. Rolle is the only coach in Miami-Dade County history to lead two schools to State championships.

Coach Rolle returned to coach the Bulls in 2007 and achieved compiling two of the three State titles the School held. He has been recognized as the 2007 Coach of the Year by American Football Monthly. Rolle is committed to preparing his team for post-secondary educational opportunities, and the world of work. The 2006 State Championship team featured seven stars that could sign with the University of Miami in 2008, as well as infamous star running back Antwan Easterling (Southern Miss).

To this day, there are still just as many devoted fans as there were when the School opened in 1955. Not only has the School’s academic arena earned noteworthy and positive outcomes throughout the past 53 years, but the School’s football program has demonstrated and become the highlight in Miami-Dade County that has continuously produced the best crop of talent in the Nation.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL EVANS WILSON

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mr. BERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise here today to pay tribute to a dear friend, Michael Evans Wilson, who was a longtime advocate for advancement of education and a veteran who honorably served our country. His passion for improving the lives of Arkansans will be missed, as well as his unwavering friendship. He delighted in asking penetrating questions, and his friendship was a treasure.

Mike was a compassionate and caring family man who loved his wife and children more than anything else in the world. He had a never-ending and burning desire to help people, and he made a lasting impression on each and every individual who knew him.

Mike was the son of the late Robert Edward Lee Wilson III and Patte Evans Wilson. He was the great-great-grandson of Robert Edward Lee Wilson, who founded Lee Wilson and Co. of Wilson in 1886.

He attended high school at the Baylor School in Chattanooga, TN, and graduated from The Citadel at Charleston, SC, in 1965. He served in the United States Army in Korea, and he achieved the rank of captain in air defense artillery prior to his honorable discharge in 1967.

Following his tour of duty in the Army, Mike returned to Wilson to work at Lee Wilson and Co. He served as chairman and chief executive officer of Lee Wilson and Co. from 1987 to the present.

Mike loved the State of Arkansas. Throughout his life, he became well known and highly

respected for his philanthropy, his willingness to devote countless hours to charitable endeavors and for his passion for the advancement of education, both on a statewide and national level. Because of his commitment to his community, he was elected mayor of the City of Wilson from 1986 to the present.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Michael Evans Wilson. He was an incredible person who made a difference in the lives of so many Arkansans. He will be remembered as a great friend and will be missed by all who knew him.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOHN T.
KILBANE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of John T. Kilbane. John has transformed his Cleveland union into an educated workforce prepared for the challenges of a global economy.

Since 1974, when he emigrated to the United States, John has put in many years of dedicated work. Whether working the front lines of the Ford plant or managing important projects for a west coast-based company, in his years of hard work, John has held numerous important positions within the Local #310 union.

John was instrumental in introducing apprenticeship programs that teach laborers to do things they never did before. John established the first Construction Craft Laborers Apprenticeship Program in Ohio. He is also responsible for the construction of his Local 310's new Training Center, which welcomed its first class in 2005.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in recognizing John T. Kilbane, an innovative leader in Cleveland, for his commitment to his brothers and sisters. May future generations of laborers draw inspiration from his efforts.

AMENDMENT TO THE ALASKA NATIVE CLAIMS SETTLEMENT ACT TO PROVIDE LAND RIGHTS FOR THE 13TH REGIONAL CORPORATION

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 12, 2008

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, there have been many items of unfinished business which flowed from the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, ANCSA, which was originally enacted on December 18, 1971. A number of these issues have been resolved over the years. Few of those unfinished items, however, stand out in my mind as much as the need to provide land selection rights to the members of the 13th Regional Corporation, which was formed by ANCSA primarily to represent Alaska Natives residing outside of Alaska at that time. Today, with the 13th Regional Corporation Land Entitlement Act, I address that objective. I am pleased to be joined in this

sponsorship by my friend and colleague from Washington State, Congressman NORM DICKS. For me, both of us, this completes a significant goal of the original Act. Let me give you the background of this issue and the story of the 13th Region.

In 1971, after years of debate, Congress enacted the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971, 43 U.S.C. § 1601 et seq., "the Settlement Act", extinguishing claims by Native Alaskans based on aboriginal land rights. The Act divided the State into 12 geographical Regions which were to be composed as far as practicable of Natives having a common heritage and sharing common interests. In addition, non-resident Natives were given the option either to enroll in one of the 12 Regional Corporations established for each region or to elect, by majority vote, to form a separate 13th Regional Corporation to represent the interests of non-resident Alaskan Natives.

Provision for the 13th was focused upon serving the interests of non-resident Alaska Natives while affording them their fair share of the settlement. Some non-resident Natives had been dislocated during and after World War II, others left their homes to serve in the Armed Forces, many left to attend high schools and colleges in other States, and still others, for economic reasons, migrated south in the hope of attaining employment. Information about the Settlement Act and its implications for non-resident Natives was difficult to obtain, spotty and inconsistent in character, and generally insufficient to enable individual non-resident Natives to make reasoned decisions. In this situation, a majority of non-resident Alaska Natives felt that their interests could best be protected by forming the non-resident 13th to better control and direct their own affairs. Ultimately approximately 4,500 Alaska Natives chose to enroll in the new 13th. Wherever they resided then, or now, however, they were and are Alaska Natives, and we honor them.

In opting to join the 13th, however, these non-resident Natives were deprived of the ability to fully participate in the settlement of their claims as that settlement was generally provided by the Act. Let me be specific. Monetary payments under the Settlement Act were made through the Alaska Native Fund, and distributed among all 13 Regional Corporations on a per capita basis, but land was distributed only among the 12 resident Regional Corporations and the Village Corporations within those regions. No additional money, however, was provided to the 13th to compensate for the absence of land. The Settlement Act also provided that the 12 Regional Corporations would share among themselves some of the revenues from all natural resource development occurring on the lands conveyed to them. The 13th did not receive this right.

In sum, Alaska Natives enrolled in the 13th did not receive any land, and did not receive additional money in lieu of land, and did not get any right to participate in distributions from the pool of natural resource revenue funds in which the other Regional Corporations shared. The 13th, being comprised of non-resident Alaska Natives, was thus denied full participation in the settlement provided by the Settlement Act. While some will claim that this was their choice, it seems clear that it was an inadequately informed choice, and resulted in depriving over 4,500 members of the 13th of two

of the three major benefits of this Act. This bill seeks to resolve at least the absence of an entitlement to land.

Over the years, the effect of this inequity in the Act has been to substantially disadvantage the shareholders of the 13th as they tried to build an economically successful corporation and to deny them the benefits of land ownership in Alaska. As an example, the 13th received its pro rata share of the monetary payments under the Act but was obligated to distribute 50 percent of those proceeds immediately to shareholders as they were received over a number of years. The remaining 50 percent provide the only capitalization for the small corporation with many scattered shareholders. Without a land base or resources to develop, the 13th did not have the economic base, nor the crucial development alternatives afforded other Regional Corporations. The corporation did not receive revenues from the development of resources, such as timber harvest which was accomplished in several regions, or a share of Sec. 7(i) revenues, including petroleum revenues, which were a source of income for the 12 Regional Corporations. The 13th has survived but with some difficulty, and it is time to provide a fairer share of the settlement to them for their future.

To correct the inequity caused by the Settlement Act's failure to equally compensate non-resident Natives for the extinguishment of their aboriginal land claims, the 13th Regional Corporation Land Entitlement Act will place the shareholders of the 13th on a better footing with shareholders of the other Alaska Native Regional Corporations, at least as far as land is concerned.

The proposal authorizes the 13th to select land from the excess lands previously withdrawn by the Secretary of the Department of the Interior on behalf of other Regional Corporations. The proposed legislation gives absolute priority to land selections by the State of Alaska and other Native Corporations, regional and village, and prohibits the selection of lands from within conservation system units, as defined in the Alaska National Interests Lands Conservation Act. The 13th may not select from the National Petroleum Reserve, the Tongass or Chugach National Forests and other sensitive areas. In other words, the 13th is at the very end of the line for its land selections. This is nonetheless far more equitable for the 13th than the present situation.

In proposing this legislation, the shareholders of the 13th are seeking equity by being placed on a stronger and more equal footing with respect to the Native shareholders of the other 12 Native Regional Corporations. This is supported by the Alaska Native community. This proposal has been endorsed by the Alaska Federation of Natives and by the Association of Regional Corporation Presidents, and it has been thoroughly considered by the Alaska delegation.

My first term in Congress was the one immediately following the enactment of ANCSA in late 1971. I can tell you that neither the Act nor its implementation focused much attention on the 13th. They were not fully represented, so members of the Washington State delegation like the late Congressman Lloyd Meeds and Senator Henry Jackson took their side but were not able to accomplish land rights for the 13th, or a monetary settlement in its stead. Congressman Meeds believed throughout his life that this was a matter that required resolution.