

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A BILL TO RENAME PART OF THE ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE WILDERNESS IN ALASKA

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 24, 1996

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing legislation today which would rename an existing portion of wilderness in the Brooks Range of Alaska's Arctic Wildlife Refuge the "Mollie Beattie Alaska Wilderness." Mollie Beattie, until recently the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, combined advocacy in her role as the chief steward of America's Federal programs for fish and wildlife with a compassionate belief that people were an inseparable part of the natural environment. Mollie held a special place in her heart for the Brooks Range wilderness area of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, America's largest. This legislation provides for the naming of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Wilderness established in the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act—Public Law 96-487—in her honor. As Mollie's knowledge of Alaska grew, so did her love for our unique areas and for the special people who choose to call Alaska home. I hope that her willingness to try to understand my State better will encourage others to grow in the same way.

MORE DECLASSIFICATION NEEDED FOR HONDURAS

HON. ELIZABETH FURSE

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 24, 1996

Ms. FURSE. Mr. Speaker, it was a privilege that Dr. Leo Valladares Lanza, human rights ombudsman for the nation of Honduras, was here in Washington, DC, earlier this month. He was the featured speaker at a briefing hosted here on Capitol Hill by the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, of which I am a member.

The Honduran Government, through its National Commission for Human Rights headed by Dr. Valladares, is making a concerted effort to identify and prosecute those persons responsible for human rights violations in their country in the 1980's.

The Clinton administration is making strides in beginning the process of declassifying documents that no longer need to remain secret. In response to a request submitted to the United States Ambassador in Tegucigalpa by the Honduran Government on August 1 of last year, this administration agreed to expedite the declassification of documents relevant to Honduras.

Documents were requested from several Government agencies, including the Departments of State and Defense, the Defense In-

telligence Agency, and the U.S. Army. While the Department of State has been quite forthcoming with information, I am told that these other agencies have yet to make information available to Honduran authorities.

The sooner declassified documents can be released the better as the information they contain may serve as evidence in ongoing and future court proceedings against rights violations. Prompt declassification will help promote the independence of the judiciary system and strengthen democracy in Honduras.

TRIBUTE TO THE HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER AT SUNY STONY BROOK

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 24, 1996

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Health Science Center at SUNY Stony Brook. It began in June 1963 when the New York State Committee on Medical Education, chaired by Malcolm Muir, issued its reports entitled "Education for the Health Professions." The report reiterated the importance of meeting the projected needs of the health professions over the next two decades. It recommended that State institutions be expanded and that State institutions cooperate with the expansion planned by the private institutions to educate physicians and associated health professionals be educated in the concept of comprehensive medical care. As a part of the implementation plan, it was proposed that a comprehensive health sciences center be developed as a part of SUNY Stony Brook.

SUNY accepted the committee's recommendation and included in the 1964 SUNY master plan, the creation of a health sciences center as part of the University Center being developed at Stony Brook.

The Health Sciences Center at Stony Brook stands as a testimony to the vision and hard work of State and University leaders who contributed to the creation of this outstanding institution. Over a very short period of time, the Health Sciences Center at SUNY Stony Brook has established itself as an outstanding center for research and education, and a major provider of health care services to Suffolk County and the broader Nassau/Suffolk region.

To recognize this accomplishment, the Health Sciences Center will hold a symposium entitled, "A Retrospective of the Health Sciences Center at the State University during the past Four Decades" on June 18, 1996. It is hoped that this will also energize the participants to meet the challenges confronting the health care professions as the Health Sciences Center continues to work toward improving the health status of those who live and work in Suffolk County, the Long Island Region, New York State, and the Nation as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, the Health Center at SUNY Stony Brook has provided an excellent service in the Long Island region. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the outstanding contributions this institution has made.

INTRODUCTION OF THE EQUAL SURETY BOND OPPORTUNITY ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 24, 1996

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce the Equal Surety Bond Opportunity Act [ESBOA]. The ESBOA will help qualified women- and minority-owned businesses to compete in the contracting business by helping them obtain adequate surety bonding. In addition, the ESBOA is directed against barriers many qualified small and emerging construction firms encounter in obtaining surety bonding.

Surety bonding is mandatory for bidding on all Federal construction work in excess of \$25,000, all federally assisted construction projects in excess of \$100,000, and most State and local public construction. Surety bonding requirements, however, are not restricted to government contracting. Increasingly, private construction contracts also require surety bonding. As surety bonding has become a widespread requirement for competition, the inability to obtain surety bonding can cripple a construction firm, especially a small or nascent one.

In 1992, Congress acknowledged the importance of this issue when it passed the Small Business Credit Crunch Relief Act and included legislation to study the problem of discrimination in the surety bonding field, Public Law 102-366, that I had introduced. The survey provision required the General Accounting Office [GAO] to conduct a comprehensive survey of business firms, especially those owned by women and minorities, to determine their experiences in obtaining surety bonding from corporate surety firms.

The GAO completed the requested survey in June 1995. The survey found that of the 12,000 small construction firms surveyed, 77 percent had never obtained bonds. In addition, minority- and women-owned firms were more likely to be asked for certain types of financial documentation. Further, minority-owned firms were also more likely to be asked to provide collateral and meet other conditions than the firms not owned by minorities.

The ESBOA bill I am introducing today is modeled on the Equal Credit Opportunity Act of 1968 which prohibited discrimination in credit practices. The ESBOA requires notification of a contractor of the action taken on his or her application within 20 days of receipt of a completed bond application. If the applicant is denied bonding, the surety would also be required, upon request, to provide a written statement of specific reasons for each denied

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

request. According to the National Association of Minority Contractors [NAMC], many minority contractors reported being turned down for a bond without an explanation. When explanations are not proffered, a perception of discrimination in the surety industry is created. This perception drives minority contractors to obtain sureties outside the mainstream, often at significant additional expenses and fewer protections, placing themselves, their subcontractors, and the Government at greater risk.

This legislation will create an environment in which small business firms, particularly those owned and controlled by minorities and women, can successfully obtain adequate surety bonding. This legislation will enable us to ferret out continuing biases in the industry. Whatever these prejudices may be, getting rid of them will open up the industry, creating entrepreneurial and employment opportunities and making the industry more competitive. I urge my colleagues to support this bill and help abolish the artificial impediments to the development and survival of emerging small businesses.

CONGRATULATIONS TO PLEASURE
RIDGE PARK HIGH SCHOOL'S
BASEBALL TEAM

HON. MIKE WARD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 24, 1996

Mr. WARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate an outstanding baseball team in my district. For the third year in a row, the Pleasure Ridge Park Panthers baseball team took the Kentucky State baseball championship title.

This outstanding team was led by head coach Bill Miller who has served in that position for 17 years. The championship was won 5 to 3 against the Greenup County Musketeers after a long-fought battle. The upset came after a 21-game Musketeer winning streak.

Each team player gave it their all throughout the season and their dedication paid off in the final round. These young men deserve special recognition, and I am proud to have such athletes in my district. Members of the winning team included Simon Auter, Richard Boston, Darrell Davis, Matthew Fox, Adam Garis, Adam Gibson, Nathan Harp, Troy Hilpp, Shawn Hoover, Matthew Jarboe, Mickey King, Matthew McGohon, David McGovern, Royce Meredith, Paul Miller, Josh Newton, Matthew Page, William Pfister, Christopher Phillips, Brian Scyphers, Craig Shubert, Jeffrey Szymansky, Scott Terrill, Nicklaus Waddell, and Bradley Williams.

Special recognition should be given to head coach Bill Miller as well as the assistant coaches Jim Stokes, Rich Hawks, Don Vandgriff, Richie Wyman, Sherm Blaszczyk, Dennis Lankford, and Jim Dawson. Pleasure Ridge Park Principal Charles Miller, Athletic Director Russ Kline and Assistant Athletic Director Jerry Smith should be especially proud of their team.

THE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT
LEAVE ACT

HON. PATRICIA SCHROEDER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 24, 1996

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Parental Involvement Leave Act of 1996.

There is no greater cause for this country than to strengthen the family. When we invest in children and families it provides dividends for life.

President Clinton and Vice President GORE know this to be true. In fact, they are in Nashville with their wives hosting a conference on families. So it is fitting that today I introduce the Parental Involvement Leave Act, legislation that strengthens the family.

This bill provides families with two very important benefits that will help assure the continued success of the American family. First, it expands coverage of the Family and Medical Leave Act to businesses with 25 or more employees. The Commission On Family and Medical Leave reports that the law is working well for millions of workers and their families. Two-thirds of covered employers have expanded their policies to come into compliance with FMLA. And the great majority of companies reported no or only minor new costs. Business have even seen increased productivity and lower worker turnover as a result of the FMLA.

Second, it gives parents 3 days of unpaid leave a year to attend activities related to their children's education.

Studies show that parental involvement is a key ingredient in a child's education. When families learn together, children learn better. In fact, one of the most accurate predictors of a student's achievement in school is not income or social status, but the extent to which parents are involved in that student's education.

Moreover, the schools and communities also profit when families get involved. Research on families and education has found that: families make critical contributions to student achievement, from earliest childhood through high school.

When parents are involved at school, not just at home, children do better in school and they stay in school longer. The more the relationship between the family and the school approaches a comprehensive, well-planned partnership, the higher the student achievement.

But it is much harder today for families to find the time to participate in school activities.

The nostalgic "Ozzie and Harriet" image no longer represents the average American family. Today, only 7 percent of American families fit the 1950's image of breadwinner father, homemaker mother, and two children. Half of all children will spend time in a single-parent household. Moreover, 81 percent of single mothers work full time to support their children.

With more dual-income families, it is harder for parents to get time off to meet with teachers or attend their children's soccer games. In a survey of PTA leaders, 89 percent cite the lack of time as the biggest roadblock to parental involvement.

Under the bill, parents can take leave to participate in or attend an activity that is sponsored by a school or a community organiza-

tion. Parents with children in child care through high school are eligible. Parents will have the flexibility to take leave a few hours at a time or longer. Federal employees are also covered under this bill.

With all of the Federal cuts in education, the question is how can we help families that want to be more involved with their kid's education? It is time for this Congress to take a stand for kids. I hope you will join me in sponsoring the Parental Involvement Leave Act and allow parents to make a real investment in their children's education.

A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF INDIAN
GAMING

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 24, 1996

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, Indian gaming is one of the most misinterpreted issues in the media and on Capitol Hill in recent memory. The following document reviews some of the major issues currently surrounding Indian gaming and offers an opposing viewpoint to the many accepted and pervasive pro-Indian gaming arguments in the media and in the public. Much of this material can be used to effect a greater awareness of the true nature of Indian gaming.

There has been explosive growth in Indian Gaming since the passage of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA) in 1988. Since the Act some 200 tribes have set up 237 gaming operations in 29 states. This trend is only increasing as more and more tribes seek permission to open up gaming operations. In arguing their case, the pro-Indian Gaming interests continually isolate the same few examples of Indian Gaming prosperity and champion these cases in the media and on Capitol Hill. The example of the Mashantucket-Pequot's Foxwoods casino in Connecticut is somehow being mistakenly applied universally to all Indian Gaming nationwide. The fact is that even their darling Mashantucket-Pequot casino in Connecticut is destroying taxpaying businesses and having a detrimental effect on the surrounding communities.

In 1983 the U.S. Congress established a 2,300-acre settlement boundary for the Mashantucket-Pequot tribe in Connecticut. This settlement boundary outlined an area in which the Indians could acquire land and place it into trust. Under current law, this land then becomes part of the tribe's sovereign lands and is no longer within the jurisdiction of state or local governments. More notably, the land is no longer subject to taxation, zoning or environmental controls. Thus acquired land does not have to be reservation land and the Secretary of the Interior only requires that Indian tribes not acquire land in trust for gaming purposes in states where they currently have no land. Originally, the local communities in Connecticut were very supportive of this 1983 ruling and honestly believed that the tribe was owed some historical redress. But the subsequent loss of tax revenue and local control has made Indian Gaming a nightmare for many communities.

The Mashantucket-Pequot tribe is profiting over \$800 million a year from their Foxwoods casino and the 320 members of the tribe are becoming incredibly wealthy. Besides enriching themselves, the Indians have taken the casino profits to purchase land