

HONORING EMMITT WILLIAMS ON
THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIRE-
MENT FROM THE DOWNEY UNI-
FIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 1996

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize my good friend, Emmitt Williams, an educator at South Middle School of the Downey Unified School District. Emmitt is retiring after nearly 40 years of dedicated service educating generations of our youth. A strong and reliable advocate for public schools, Emmitt has worked tirelessly to ensure that our youth are provided the best possible education.

Born in Emory and educated in Alba, TX, Emmitt earned his bachelor of science and masters of education from North Texas State College. He began his career as a teacher in 1957 at Alamo School, in the Dallas Independent School District. In 1958, Emmitt moved to California where he began teaching in the Downey Unified School District, at Spencer Williams Elementary, Downey Elementary, and later at South Middle School.

Dedicated to advocating for our children, schools, and teachers, Emmitt has held many positions within the Downey Education Association, California Teachers Association [CTA], and the National Education Association [NEA]. In the Downey Education Association he has been a faculty representative, committee chair, member of the board of directors and elected six times to serve as president. Also, he has been president of the CTA Southeastern Regional Resource Center [RRC]. In the CTA Southeastern Section he has been active as a member of the board of directors and vice president. At the State level of the CTA, he has held positions as a member of the board of directors, election committee, liaison committee, and the State council. Within the NEA, Emmitt has been a representative to three international conferences, a member of the board of directors, resolution committee, and three times chosen to be the chairman of the host committee.

Emmitt's years of unwavering commitment earned him the respect and admiration of his students, colleagues, and the community. He has received the Honorary Service Award, Continuing Service Award, and the Golden Oak Award from the Parent Teachers Association. Emmitt has also received the Award of Distinction from the Teacher Education Department at Tyler Junior College, local and State Who Awards by the CTA, Representative Teacher Citation from the Downey Masonic Temple, Teacher of the Year from the Downey Women's Club, the Christa McAuliffe Award, and the Southeastern RRC Gold Award.

While maintaining an active role in education, Emmitt has been a member of the board of directors for the Long Beach Playhouse, volunteer at the Long Beach Civic Light Opera and South Coast Repertoire, honorary life member of the Downey Kiwanis Club, member of the Downey Democratic Club, Hubert Humphrey Democratic Club, charter member of the Downey Historical Association, and chair of the Student Exchange Program and the Downey-Guadalajara Sister City Program. He has received the National

Town Affiliation Award from the American Municipal Association in Washington, DC, a Commendation of Outstanding Community Service from the city of Downey, and four student-sponsored youth awards from the Downey Kiwanis Club.

Mr. Speaker, on August 18, 1996, teachers, administrators, former students, and community members gathered to honor Emmitt Williams for his contributions to the field of education and to the community. It is with pride that I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting this exceptional man for his outstanding record of educational service to our young people.

PROPOSED ADDITIONS TO THE NEW RIVER GORGE NATIONAL RIVER

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 1996

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2292 as reported by the Committee on Resources contains a number of provisions relating to three units of the National Park System in the State of West Virginia.

The primary purpose of these provisions are to make boundary modifications to the New River Gorge National River. In this regard, I would note that similar boundary modifications passed the House of Representatives on two occasions: in the 102d Congress as part of H.R. 4382 and in the 103d Congress as title I of H.R. 3252. At the beginning of the 104th Congress, I reintroduced these boundary modifications as part of H.R. 640.

In this regard, a provision of H.R. 2292 would modify the boundary of the New River Gorge National River to expand it by 8,768 acres. Of this total, one tract, known as the Ward estate property, accounts for 7,000 acres with an additional 800 acres of inholdings within that tract. This property is viewed as a critical addition to the national park unit, as it is located directly across from the Grandview area which is one of the most highly visited and scenic areas of the New River. It should be noted that there is no intention to acquire the 800 acres of inholdings. The remaining 968 acres consisting of willing seller property remnants of which 786 acres have already been acquired with the remaining 182 acres pending acquisition.

All in all, the proposed additions to the New River Gorge National River would enhance scenic or natural resources already included in the park unit, including peregrine falcon sites, as well as provide for better visitor access.

The pending legislation would also provide for a minor boundary modification to the Bluestone National Scenic River to include 40 acres of riverfront land that were inadvertently excluded when the river was designated in 1988.

Aside from these boundary matters, the legislation would reaffirm the State of West Virginia's jurisdiction over fish and wildlife resources within the New River Gorge National River, as well as over fish stocking activities there. This is a conforming amendment as a similar provision is contained in the enabling legislation for the neighboring Gauley River National Recreation Area.

Further, the bill would conform the act which designated the New River Gorge National

River with provisions applicable to the Gauley River National Recreation Area in two other respects. First, it would extend to the National River a provision in the National Recreation Area's enabling legislation authorizing the Secretary to enter into a cooperative agreement with the State of West Virginia to maintain and improve existing roads and public rights-of-way within the boundary of the National River to the extent necessary to facilitate and improve reasonable access. Second, the amendments would extend to the National River a provision in the National Recreation Area's enabling legislation authorizing the acquisition of remnant lands in order to minimize the payment of severance costs.

Also in the way of technical and sundry amendments, the bill would amend the enabling legislation for the Gauley River National Recreation Area by providing for the upstream river boundary to revert to its original location in the event construction on a proposed hydroelectric power facility is not commenced within the time required in its license. The enabling legislation established the upstream boundary at the foot of Summersville Dam, but provided for an automatic downstream boundary adjustment in the event a hydroelectric power facility was licensed for the area within a prescribed period of time. The facility was licensed, however, no provision was made in the enabling legislation to readjust the boundary upstream in the event the power facility was never constructed.

The Gauley River National Recreation Area is also affected by this legislation by a provision which provides river access for non-commercial recreation users within the National Recreation Area at a place known as Woods Ferry. Currently, the only public access to the area is located at its upstream boundary, with all other access sites being privately owned primarily by commercial whitewater outfitters. This situation poses an access problem for the general public, including private boaters. The Woods Ferry site, located in the middle section of the Recreation Area, is ideal because and access road is already in place and it is owned by willing sellers to the National Park Service.

A final provision of this bill would amend the designating legislation for the Bluestone National Scenic River to authorize the Secretary to negotiate a memorandum of understanding or cooperative agreement with the owner of a tract of land outside of the boundary of the scenic river or to acquire the tract with the owner's consent, in order to provide upstream access to the scenic river.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this bill to the House.

A HEALTH INSURANCE POLICY
FOR \$25,600: THE NEED FOR H.R.
3342

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 1996

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, we need national health insurance reform.

I recently received a letter from a man in the Midwest which reported the following example of the need for reform. Three years ago, his wife's COBRA health insurance continuation

policy expired. As required by law, the insurance company had to offer conversion to an individual policy—but the law does not specify at what price that policy has to be offered. The company made an offer almost every family in America would have to refuse—\$25,600 per year.

Why so much? The wife had been sick but not seriously so.

She has been without health insurance for over 3 years now. It will be 2 more years before she will be eligible for Medicare. The husband is already on Medicare.

Kennedy-Kassebaum will not help in this type of case. There is no guaranteed issue for individual policies. For those who have been out of the work force for a while, it offers no protection.

The family's plea is not to raise the age of eligibility for Medicare: "Now her only hope is to have reasonable access to Medicare by her 65th birthday in July 1998. If you take that away, a major medical occurrence would ruin this family."

Mr. Speaker, Kennedy-Kassebaum was a small first step. Let's step forward and fill in the remaining gaps in health insurance. I've introduced legislation, H.R. 3342, which would make COBRA health continuation rights permanent after age 55. Anyone, for whatever reason, would be able to buy COBRA group rate insurance after age 55 and until they reach age 65 and Medicare eligibility. This type of legislation would provide some meaningful help to families who cannot afford the cost of individual policies.

DEVILS TOWER NATIONAL MONUMENT

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA CUBIN

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 1, 1996

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to ensure that the name of Devils Tower National Monument remain unchanged.

For more than 100 years the name Devils Tower has applied to the geologic formation in my State and has since appeared as such on maps in Wyoming and nationwide. The name was given to the monument by a scientific team, directed by Gen. George Custer and escorted by Col. Richard Dodge in 1875, and is universally recognized as an important landmark that distinguishes the northeastern part of Wyoming. The monument has brought a vital tourist industry to that portion of the State due to its unique character and structure.

According to a July 17, 1996, release by the United States Board on Geographic Names, the National Park Service has advised the board that several Native American groups do intend to submit a proposal, if one has not already been submitted, to change the name of the monument. On September 4–6, 1996, the Superintendent of Devils Tower, Deborah Liggett, is scheduled to give a presentation at the Western States Geographic Names Conference in Salt Lake City, UT, giving the Native American perspective.

During a July 1, 1996, meeting with Ms. Liggett she gave me her assurance that she had no intention of proposing a name change

for the monument, and made it clear to me that on one else was in the process of initiating a name change. The legislation that I am introducing today on behalf of the State of Wyoming will ensure that the name of the geological formation, historically known as Devils Tower, remain unchanged.

It is my belief and the belief of hundreds of people from around the region that the name change will only bring economic hardship to the tourist industry in the area. I cannot and will not stand idly by and allow that to happen. I commend this bill to my colleagues and urge them to join me in cosponsoring it.

THE BEDFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY

HON. WILLIAM H. ZELIFF, JR.

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 1996

Mr. ZELIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a very important addition to the community of Bedford, NH. After years of planning, fundraising and hard work, the dream of having a public library in the town of Bedford has become a reality. On June 23, 1996, the Bedford Public Library opened its doors to the people of the surrounding community.

The Bedford Public Library offers more than just a place where an individual can go to read, or a child can go to research his or her school project. This facility also offers the Bedford community a common place to gather. On the lower level visitors will find a coffee shop, an art gallery and two community meeting rooms.

In addition to these amenities, the library has one of the finest children's learning centers in New England. The learning center is furnished with a puppet theater, a craft-activity area, a reading center that includes a section for the reading and hearing impaired, and Camelot, a reading castle. Also, included is the computer and reference center. Each computer is connected to the Internet and has CD-ROM access for state of the art sound and picture collections.

This library would not have been made possible if it was not for the vision of one special person, Ms. Francis Wiggin. Ms. Wiggin established a goal more than 35 years ago and with help of the trustees, the Bedford Lions Club, the Bedford Rotary Club, the Bedford Garden Club, the town and the people of Bedford, she is responsible for the creation of this beautiful library.

I am extremely proud of this community-wide effort and would like to congratulate all who have devoted their time and effort to such a great cause. I wish the people of Bedford the best of luck with their new community facility.

THANK YOU, BOB FERGUSON, FOR YOUR LOYAL SERVICE

HON. JACK FIELDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 4, 1996

Mr. FIELDS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it was with mixed emotions that I announced last De-

cember 11 my decision to retire from the House at the conclusion of my current term. As I explained at the time, the decision to retire was made more difficult because of the loyalty and dedication of my staff—and because of the genuine friendship I feel for them. Each one of them has served the men and women of Texas' Eighth Congressional District in an extraordinary way.

Today, I want to thank one member of my staff—Bob Ferguson, my administrative assistant—for everything he's done for me and my constituents in the 16 years that he has worked in my office.

From the day I first took my oath of office, Bob has managed and overseen the operations of my Washington office. I have relied on his experience and counsel on personnel, budgeting and administrative matters, as well as advising me on various legislative issues throughout my 16 years in this institution. More recently, in my final term in the House, Bob has served as my legislative director, personally handling social issues, welfare reform, Government reform, energy issues, clean air legislation, private property rights and endangered species legislation. The fact is that Bob has served on Capitol Hill longer than I have.

He came to my office from the Senate Republican Policy Committee, then chaired by Senator John Tower of Texas, where he served as a staff economist. In that position, Bob conducted research and formulated position papers on economic policy. In 1980, he assisted in the development of the economic policy plank of the Republican platform as a staffer to the Republican Convention Platform Committee, also chaired by Senator Tower.

Following the Presidential election, Bob served as a member of the Reagan administration transition team for the Department of the Treasury—helping to develop economic policy papers, and helping to fill key positions in the Treasury Department.

From 1977 to 1978, Bob had served on the staff of the House Republican Study Committee, working closely with our former colleague, Jack Kemp, on a variety of supply-side economic initiatives.

In addition to his work on my staff, Bob is an extremely active member of his church, the Church of Latter Day Saints. He is devoted to his lovely wife, Carol, and to his children Robby, Alecia, and Michael.

Bob is well-known as an avid fan of Brigham Young University football, and is also known as an enthusiastic gardener. More recently, he has begun a new hobby, beekeeping.

I have depended on his advice and counsel throughout my years in Congress, and appreciate this opportunity to express my gratitude for everything he has done for me over the years.

Bob Ferguson is one of those hard working men and women who make all of us in this institution look better than we deserve. I know he has done that for me, and I appreciate this opportunity to publicly thank him for the dedication, loyalty and professionalism he has exhibited throughout the years it has been my privilege to know and work with him.

Bob has yet to make a definite decision about what he wants to do when I retire from office. But I am confident that the skills and the personal qualities he has demonstrated in my office will lead to continued success in the future.