

It is these experiences which become the foundation of her most acclaimed work, a five-volume autobiography. The first book, *I know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, which received a National Book Award nomination, documents her early experiences in Arkansas, Missouri, and California. In the autobiography, she reveals the many hardships she has faced but through which she has persevered. It was through this novel that the world came to understand the obstacles she overcame. Raped at the tender age of 8 she retreated into her own world and would not utter a single word for the next 5 years. But the book also reveals the good in her life such as the birth of her only son, Guy. It is the honesty of her words which draws admirers from politicians, like myself and the President, to those who flock to hear her speak on the lecture circuit.

In her 12 books 6 of which are poetry, she has managed to write about every part of her life, focusing on such universal themes as struggle, success, love, family and identity. Her books have been a commercial and critical success. In 1972, she was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize for *Just Give Me a Cool Drink of Water 'fore I Diie*, a collection of 39 poems. Her poetry, which also reflects much of her life, explores the South, racial confrontation, and the strength of blacks in the face of hardship. One critic claimed that her poems "are characterized by a spontaneous joyfulness and an indomitable spirit to survive."

Ms. Angelou has also been recognized for her talents on stage and screen. Her performance in "Look Away" garnered a nomination for the prestigious Tony Award. In addition, her work in the mini-series, "Roots", earned her an Emmy Award nomination in 1977. In the same year, she received the Golden Eagle Award for the documentary *Afro-American in the Arts*.

Ms. Angelou continues to work devoting herself to helping shape the minds of your youth. Since 1981, she has been the first Reynolds Professor of American Studies at Wake Forest University. Ms. Angelou's contributions to our national culture are enormous and continue to enrich all our lives.

**WILLIAM H. CROCKER MIDDLE SCHOOL; A MODEL OF EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION**

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 6, 1996*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, the U.S. Department of Education has recognized William H. Crocker Middle School in Hillsborough, CA, as a blue ribbon school. As a blue ribbon school, William H. Crocker Middle School serves as a shining example of high-quality education for rest of the country. The school is one of only 266 throughout our entire Nation and only 39 in California to be selected for this high honor.

I invite my colleagues to join me in extending our most sincere admiration and congratulations for the wonderful educational environment that Crocker Middle School provides for our young Americans. I am indeed proud to have this outstanding institution in my congressional district.

William H. Crocker Middle School has achieved this high honor through its persistent

and highly effective pursuit of local, State and national education goals. These goals reflect the areas in which our educational institutions across the country are most in need of improvement. Crocker Middle School's remarkable success in overcoming some of the most difficult problems our schools face today makes it a perfect example for schools around the country to follow.

Crocker Middle School has been highly successful in fulfilling the necessary conditions of effective schooling. Through the dynamic and productive leadership of Principal Daniel G. Kreuzer, Crocker Middle School has developed a nurturing teaching environment, a rigorous and engaging curriculum, a safe environment for students and teachers, and a healthy involvement of parents and the community in strengthening educational resources. Students from Crocker convincingly demonstrate the many benefits of a good schooling environment through impressive student performances on measures of achievement, attendance rates, and the varied and ambitious pursuits of graduates of the school.

Crocker Middle School is more than deserving of the recognition it has and will continue to receive as a blue ribbon school. I hope that other schools across the country will be able to learn by the example of Crocker how to confront some of the seemingly intractable problems facing our educational system. I also hope that, in recognizing William H. Crocker Middle School, my colleagues recognize the necessity of making educational excellence one of our highest priorities in the U.S. Congress.

**THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN—TRUE AMERICAN HEROES**

**HON. DONALD M. PAYNE**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 6, 1996*

Mr. PAYNE of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, as we commemorate Black History Month, I would like my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in saluting three true American heroes who will be honored at a special ceremony in New Jersey on February 22.

On that date, as part of the County of Essex African Heritage Month celebration, a tribute will be paid to three Tuskegee Airmen—George Wanamaker, Howard L. Bragg, and George Watson, Jr.

These three men earned a place in history through their heroic actions during World War II when they served with the Tuskegee Airmen, African-American combat pilots who flew over 1,500 combat missions and shot down more than 400 enemy aircraft.

Sadly, in the segregated society of that era, these war heroes were not able to enjoy the full rights accorded to other citizens when they returned home to the United States. Through their struggles on foreign soil and at home, they remained determined, courageous, and dignified. Today, they continue to be involved in the betterment of their communities.

Their story was the subject of a theatrical production at Ford's Theater in Washington, DC, as well as a television movie which was recently aired.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in expressing our appreciation to these men of

unsurpassed bravery and patriotism who put their lives on the line overseas and confronted racial injustice at home. We recognize their sacrifice and honor them for their service to our country.

**MISSISSIPPI INTERSTATE COOPERATIVE RESOURCES AGREEMENT ACT**

**HON. STEVE GUNDERSON**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 6, 1996*

Mr. GUNDERSON. Mr. Chairman, today I am introducing the Mississippi Interstate Cooperative Resources Agreement Act, which would provide Federal recognition for an alliance formed to protect Mississippi River Drainage Basin fishery resources. By directing the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to conduct a pilot test of the Mississippi Interstate Cooperative Resources Agreement, or MICRA, the bill is intended to take an important stride in protecting the future well-being of the interjurisdictional rivers of the United States, as well as their valuable fisheries and natural resources.

**NEED FOR LEGISLATION**

Interjurisdictional rivers flow between, or are common to, two or more State boundaries. These rivers form large ecosystems that are important to the Nation in terms of both their economic and intrinsic values. The Mississippi River Basin includes the drainage of six such interjurisdictional rivers: the Mississippi, Ohio, Missouri, Tennessee, Arkansas, and Red Rivers. Including its tributaries, the basin contains about 98 rivers and small tributaries, sustains approximately 98 fish species, and spans 28 U.S. States.

Many fishery resources in the Mississippi River Basin have suffered serious declines over the past few decades. Many States in the basin list numerous native riverine species as threatened, endangered, or nearly eliminated. This is, in large part, due to the interjurisdictional nature of the basin. When rivers that provide critical habitat to a multitude of fish and wildlife cross State boundaries, State-sponsored resources management and preservation programs become hampered. Typically, there is no single entity that has complete responsibility for the fishery resources in the wide variety of rivers and tributaries making up the Basin. This absence of clear jurisdiction allows management of those resources to fall through the cracks.

In addition, as a shared resource, the Mississippi Basin suffers from the problem of the commons. Individual States are often hesitant to invest in interjurisdictional rivers because other States may benefit without contributing themselves. Compounding the problem is the sheer size of the resource base associated with the Mississippi Basin. For decades, States believed that management was unnecessary—the resource was limitless.

The implementation of MICRA has been a positive first step in addressing these problems by serving as a catalyst in bringing managing partners together and combining their economic and manpower resources.

**MICRA'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

Drafted in 1989, the Mississippi Interstate Cooperative Resources Agreement was

signed by the State natural resource agency directors of all 28 States by the end of 1990. In addition, the agreement has been signed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Tennessee Valley Authority, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the National Biological Service, the Chickasaw Nation in Oklahoma and the Chippewa-Cree Tribe in Montana. Since its formation, one of MICRA's most important accomplishments has been to bring resource managers together in the realization that all had a strong interest in preserving and protecting fish and wildlife.

The Agreement originated from a shared concern for the welfare of the ancient paddlefish, a species which was at one time abundant in the basin, providing robust commercial and recreational fishery opportunities. The basin States recognized the need to protect the species on a multi-State basis and joined forces to develop a common approach and share resources in protecting the paddlefish and other important species.

MICRA has since evolved to address losses in all kinds of aquatic species. Its mission has become to "improve the conservation, development, management and utilization of interjurisdictional fishery resources in the Mississippi River Basin through improved coordination and communication among the responsible management entities."

MICRA is administered by the Fish and Wildlife Service, which provides a full time MICRA Coordinator/Executive Secretary. The Association, composed of one representative from each member State and entity, publishes a bimonthly newsletter, called River Crossings, as its primary means of information exchange.

Included among MICRA's goals are: improving basin-wide networking and coordinating mechanisms; developing public information and education programs; identifying and prioritizing issues of concern for coordinated research; and developing compatible regulations and policies for the allocation of fishery resources.

MICRA members are aware that industry and agriculture are, like the fish and wildlife inhabiting the basin, dependent upon large rivers for transportation, irrigation, power generation and other water-dependent operations. The goal, therefore, is not to eliminate waterway development projects and uses, but to determine how those uses can exist compatibly with environmentally sound fishery resource management on a region-wide basis.

#### ADDRESSING FUNDING AND CONCERNS OF THE STATES

The bill I offer today provides Federal recognition for MICRA and establishes a pilot test for the implementation of that agreement. It will not impose any mandates upon the States. All of those involved in the creation of this legislation have taken great care to address concerns expressed by the States over the degree to which State prerogatives will be maintained. All the States involved in this program have become so voluntarily. Congressional acknowledgment of the Agreement would provide further opportunity to address basin-wide fishery management issues by ensuring access to Federal funding and encouraging greater support from member agencies.

Under the MICRA pilot test established by this bill, MICRA signatories would, among other matters, identify and describe the river ecosystems of the drainage basin, identify the factors most adversely affecting the basin and its resources, allow for resource-sharing

among the various MICRA signatories, develop plans for restoration of fishery resources, and evaluate the possibility of extending such a program to other river basins in the United States. All of these goals will be pursued under the existing funding structure under which MICRA currently operates. The bill does not authorize any appropriations, but allows the Secretary of the Interior to use U.S. Fish and Wildlife funds to carry out the objectives.

Finally, as proposed in this bill, MICRA will not duplicate any existing organizational network. Rather, coordinated resources will be used to enhance existing programs and institutions. MICRA will not only serve as a tool for protecting fisheries throughout the Mississippi River Drainage Basin, but may serve as a model for protecting fishery resources throughout the Nation as well.

#### SUPPORT FOR THE BILL

This bill is the result of over 3 years of consultations between myself, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, State fish and wildlife agencies and national and local chapters of the major river resource management organizations. I have attached copies of endorsement letters from many of these groups, and ask that they be included in the RECORD.

#### AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH, FEBRUARY 1996

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 6, 1996*

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I call to the attention of this Congress and the Nation, an effort that is taking place in my district and in places throughout the Nation. The National Daughters of the American Revolution dedicated this month, February, to be American history month. As the father of four young Americans who are 6, 14, 15, and 20 years of age, I value their education and appreciation regarding our family heritage as members of a larger family of Americans.

My ancestors were of Irish and Italian descent and were immigrants who came to the United States for a new start, a bright future, and the successes that this Nation has offered persons from throughout the world. They greatly valued the elements that make our Nation the greatest in the world. Liberty, justice, and opportunity. They assimilated into the cultural mix of the Pittsburgh suburban way of life, worked hard, raised families, and found that their differences with their neighbors gave flavor to our American community. I have lived in that community all my life and have found a strength and truly American spirit, which is found in small and large places nationwide.

I salute the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution for promoting awareness of American history and our national heritage this month. Generations of Americans from all walks of life and from all cultures have given their labor, their prayers, their very lives so that we might enjoy the fruits of democracy. I encourage my colleagues and all Americans to promote an interest by our youth in history this month and what this Nation means to all Americans.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 6, 1996*

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, February 1, I missed rollcall No. 30. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

#### A TRIBUTE TO HONOR NANCY WILSON

HON. KWEISI MFUME

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, February 6, 1996*

Mr. MFUME. Speaker, I am both pleased and proud to be here today to honor one of the finest entertainers and the pride of Chillicothe, OH—Nancy Wilson.

Ms. Wilson's career in the performing arts has lasted some 40 plus years. Since the age of 4 years, Nancy Wilson knew she wanted to become a singer. She sang in the church choir and listened avidly to and was influenced by a litany of musical talent, among them Billy Eckstine, Louis Jordan, Ruth Brown, LaVern Baker, Nat King Cole, and big band vocalists such as Jimmy Rushing and Little Jimmy Scott.

As an active vocalist during her teenage years, Nancy Wilson sang in nightclubs and made local television appearances. And in 1956–58 she toured the Midwest and Canada with Rusty Bryant's band.

In 1959, her biggest career break came when she performed with jazz great Cannonball Adderley. She soon signed a contract with Capitol Records and in 1962 recorded an album with Adderley.

Nancy Wilson received rave reviews from several prominent jazz musicians and thereafter was booked for numerous appearances in concert halls, nightclubs, and jazz clubs throughout the United States and Europe. Her career has continued to blossom ever since.

Ms. Wilson is a "grounded in reality" kind of person. She is a woman that gives her time and talent to various charities and community projects.

The Wilson family created the Nancy Wilson Foundation to permit inner-city children to see the country and experience alternate lifestyles. She has also worked with the Martin Luther King Center for Social Change, the National Urban Coalition, and the Warwick Foundation.

Ms. Wilson is a member of the N.A.A.C.P.; the S.C.L.C.; Operation PUSH, for which she is chairperson; the President's Council for Minority Business Enterprises; the Committee for the Kennedy Center for Performing Arts; and the United Negro College Fund.

Among her many awards, Nancy Wilson earned the Johnson and Johnson Red Ruby Award, after working with the company's prenatal care promotion. Her other achievements are an Emmy in 1975 for "The Nancy Wilson Show"; the N.A.A.C.P. Image Award—1986; Grammy Award for "How Glad I Am"—1964; Entertainer of the Year Award presented by Atlantic City Magazine; the Global Entertainer of the Year Award presented by the World Conference of Mayors—1986; the Paul Robeson Humanitarian Award; first place in the