

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

1983 Japan Song Festival Competition; and an award from the United Negro College Fund—1986.

Nancy Wilson, along with your millions of fans world-wide, and all of those whose lives you have touched with your generosity and selfless works, I thank you for the many contributions you have made.

LOWELL HIGH 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 Lowell High School in San Francisco, CA, as a Blue Ribbon School. As a Blue Ribbon School, Lowell High School serves as a shining example of high-quality education for the rest of the country. The school is 1 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 Lowell High School provides for our young Americans. I am indeed proud to have this outstanding institution in my congressional district.

Lowell High 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. Lowell High 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.

Lowell High School has been highly successful in fulfilling the necessary conditions of effective schooling. Through the dynamic and productive leadership of Principal Paul Cheng, Lowell High 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 Lowell 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.

Lowell High 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 Lowell how to confront some of the seemingly intractable problems facing our educational system. I also hope that, in recognizing Lowell High School, my colleagues recognize the necessity of making educational excellence one of our highest priorities in the U.S. Congress.

WE'RE WITH YOU KWEISI

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 1996

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and encourage a fellow Member and friend, the right Honorable KWEISI MFUME, on this the occasion of his acceptance of the challenge and opportunity of leading a great national organization, the NAACP. I will not restate all of the accomplishments of KWEISI MFUME as a man or a U.S. Representative. Others have done that quite eloquently. I just want to add that I believe that in his life and work, Mr. MFUME has set an example to which any of today's young people can proudly aspire. Each step he takes marks yet another significant achievement.

During his tenure in the House of Representatives, Congressman MFUME has consistently advocated landmark minority business and civil rights legislation. He has succeeded in focusing Congressional attention on a broad range of minority business development concerns in the United States. His work as chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus has been exemplary. And, we all look to his leadership in his role as chair of the CBC Task Force to Preserve Affirmative Action.

Those of us who have had the privilege of working closely with him over the years have come to admire his genteel grace and leadership. I know he will bring renewed stature to the NAACP.

God speed KWEISI MFUME, God speed.

A TRIBUTE TO GOVERNOR LUTALI

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 1996

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, all Americans, including those of us in Congress, are concerned about the destruction of the rain forests that is occurring all over the world. The rain forests constitute unique and irreplaceable ecosystems sometimes called the lungs of the earth. In addition to their function in replenishing the earth's atmosphere, the rain forests provide essential protection against global warming, contain hundreds of plants found nowhere else on earth, house many animals unique to the rain forests alone, and provide protection against destruction of coral reefs and marine life. I would like to call my colleagues' attention to a unique effort to save these vital systems and to an individual who is being honored for his own efforts to save the rain forests.

Seacology Foundation is a nonprofit foundation founded to help protect island ecosystems and island cultures. Seacology scientists include experts in endangered species, island flora and fauna, and island ecosystems. One hundred percent of the money donated to Seacology goes directly to building schools, hospitals, installing safe water supplies, and meeting the other needs of the indigenous people who live near the rain forests so that these people will not have to sell off the rain forest to survive. Seacology scientists donate their time as well.

The Honorable A.P. Lutali, Governor of American Samoa, has been selected to receive this year's Seacology Foundation Award as "Indigenous Conservationist of the Year" in recognition of his superb efforts to preserve the Samoan rain forest and indigenous Samoan culture. Governor Lutali's efforts include responsibility for passage of an act to protect the American Samoa flying fox and our joint work to create the U.S. National Park in American Samoa. As a letter from Seacology Foundation to Governor Lutali notifying him of the award explains, neither of these achievements would have occurred without the Governor's strong leadership and support.

I congratulate Governor Lutali and the Seacology Foundation for all of their efforts and I am submitting for the record a copy of a letter from Paul Alan Cox, Ph.D, chairman of the board of Seacology Foundation to Governor Lutali for review by my colleagues.

OCTOBER 24, 1995.

Governor A.P. LUTALI,
Office of the Governor, American Samoa Government, Pago Pago, American Samoa.

DEAR GOVERNOR LUTALI: On behalf of the Board of Directors and the Scientific Advisory Board of the Seacology Foundation, it gives me great pleasure to inform you that you have been selected as the 1995 Indigenous Conservationist of the Year. This award, believed to be the only one of its kind in the world, annually recognizes an indigenous person who has demonstrated heroic efforts in protecting the environment. The Seacology Foundation invites you, at our expense, to attend an award dinner in your honor and a presentation ceremony in Provo, Utah to receive your award, which will consist of an engraved plaque and a cash award of \$1,000. Lorraine Clark, Executive Associate Director of the Seacology Foundation, will be in touch with Rob Shaffer from your staff to arrange a convenient date for this event.

In making this award, the Seacology Foundation wishes to recognize your personal courage and foresight in protecting the rainforests and wildlife of American Samoa. You have demonstrated your commitment to conservation in many different ways. Examples of your environmental leadership include passage of an act to protect flying foxes, including the rare Samoan Flying Fox, *Pteropus samoensis*, or *pe'a vao* by the Territorial Legislature of American Samoa. Your leadership was crucial in passing this legislation, which is believed to be the first legislation enacted by any Pacific island government to protect flying foxes. Because of your example, many other island governments have now enacted similar legislation.

Even more impressive was your visionary foresight in establishing the 50th National Park of the United States of America, the National Park of American Samoa. It was your leadership and your vision that brought together a coalition of Samoan school children, villagers, *matua* and other traditional community leaders, Territorial officials, scientists, conservationists, and U.S. Congressmen to create a new future for the people of American Samoa. You personally held meetings with key scientists and village leaders, you personally hosted a distinguished congressional delegation in Samoa, you personally traveled to Washington, D.C. to testify on behalf of the park and you personally provided leadership at every phase to assure passage of the enabling legislation. You exercised this leadership without any concern for its potential impact on your own political future. Because of your selflessness and bi-partisan approach, the American Samoa National Park Bill became one of the first