

plants—is critical to maintaining environmental quality. “It strongly suggests that we could have more productive forests and grasslands if, for example, forests weren’t cut and replanted with just one species,” Tilman said.

One of the reasons why diversity is important, Tilman said, is because different plants have particular niches in the ecosystem. They capture nutrients at different times of the growing season, they have different kinds of root systems, and they bloom and mature at different stages.

In turn, that produces a true community of plants that is productive, efficient and able to withstand extreme weather and other natural stresses, Tilman said. Two years ago he showed, in a different experiment at Cedar Creek, that species-rich grasslands were able to recover more rapidly from drought than species-poor plots.

On a regional and even global scale, Tilman said, ecosystems must be diverse if we expect them to continue filtering water, producing food, decomposing waste, enriching soil and purifying air.

“If we simplify nature by destroying habitat or by subdividing land into little fragments, we lose these species. We lost what they’re best at doing in the ecosystem, and it shows through a loss of productivity,” he said.

Samual McNaughton, an ecology professor at Syracuse University, said Tilman’s work is particularly significant. “Many authoritative people say the Earth is now going through this ‘extinction spasm’ because of man’s activities,” he said, and people are asking what is going to happen to the functioning of the biosphere.

“One of the important question is: ‘Do species matter?’” McNaughton said. “Tilman’s work shows that the number of species does matter. And if the way ecosystems function is tied to biodiversity, we need to know it.”

TRIBUTE TO OUR NATION'S JEWISH WAR VETERANS

HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 1996

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute America’s Jewish war veterans as they celebrate their 100th anniversary. As one of our Nation’s oldest and most active veterans organizations, the Jewish War Veterans have served our country with honor and distinction. We certainly owe them our praise and acknowledgment for their bravery and patriotism as they gather to celebrate this most significant event.

I have always admired our Jewish veterans for fearlessly guarding the interests of our great Nation and defending democratic principles worldwide. Thousands of Jewish-American service men and women have risked their lives for the sake of freedom and stability in foreign lands. Not only have they fought bravely, but they have also tended to the sick, hopeless, and disabled in hospitals and clinics. Their leadership has been instrumental in guiding our country in times of strife. America’s Jewish veterans have certainly done much to improve the lives of people everywhere and will continue to do so in times ahead.

I urge all my colleagues to join me in saluting this important group as they celebrate their 100th anniversary. I wish them continued

peace, good health, and success in all of their future endeavors.

IN HONOR OF DR. MICHAEL
DEBAKEY

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 1996

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend Dr. Michael DeBakey of Houston for his induction into the Health Care Hall of Fame on March 10, 1996. I am proud to represent Dr. DeBakey, who is director of the DeBakey Heart Center at Methodist Hospital in Houston and chancellor emeritus of the Baylor College of Medicine, also in Houston.

Dr. DeBakey first emerged as a medical legend in 1964 when he performed the first successful coronary bypass surgery. However, this distinguished achievement is just one of the many remarkable achievements during Dr. DeBakey’s career.

Through six decades of research, Dr. DeBakey has fought the most indiscriminate of killers: heart disease. He has operated on patients from international statesmen to indigent people for whom he donated his services. The doctor’s patients have traveled from more than 80 countries to be healed by his expertise. All told, his talent has mended more than 80,000 human hearts.

Dr. DeBakey is a perfectionist for whom a 17- to 18-hour day is typical. The doctor’s medical expertise as well as these extremely long days have led to more than 40 prestigious medical awards.

Dr. DeBakey’s career truly has been medical history in the making. Back in 1932, while still in Tulane Medical School, he developed the roller pump, an instrument that became the pumping system for the open-heart surgery used around the world. Following services as a surgical consultant to the U.S. Army Surgeon General during World War II, he returned to Tulane as an assistant professor of surgery.

In 1948, he was selected chairman of the newly formed department of surgery at Baylor. When Dr. DeBakey first arrived, Baylor did not have an affiliated hospital so he suggested that Harris County’s public hospital, Jefferson Davis Hospital, serve as Baylor’s teaching hospital. It was at Jefferson Davis Hospital that Dr. DeBakey performed the first abdominal aortic aneurysm replacement in the United States and the first heart valve replacement in Houston. In 1952, Dr. DeBakey again made history by developing the first Dacron artificial grafts that would later serve as replacements for diseased arteries. One year later, he performed the first successful endarterectomy; a procedure in which the lesion is peeled away from an artery wall. This treatment helped reduce a major cause of strokes.

Before long, Houston was home to the world’s largest cardiovascular center in terms of heart surgeries performed.

Dr. DeBakey has played a role in nearly every aspect of health care. He has been an adviser to almost every President and was influential in some of the most important milestones of health policy. He was instrumental in establishing the National Library of Medicine, mobile army surgical hospitals [MASH], and

the Department of Veterans Affairs hospital system.

The Greater Houston area is proud of Dr. DeBakey’s accomplishments and grateful for all that he has contributed to our community. That gratitude is shared by millions of people around the world who have benefited either personally from his medical care or from products and knowledge derived from his medical research. Dr. Michael DeBakey has improved all of our lives.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM J. FLYNN

HON. THOMAS J. MANTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 1996

Mr. MANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the 1996 grand marshal of the New York City St. Patrick’s Day Parade, William J. Flynn, chairman of the board of Mutual of America Life Insurance Co.

The New York City St. Patrick’s Day Parade is the oldest and largest parade in the history of New York. This year, the parade will be led by Grand Marshal William J. Flynn, a remarkable business leader and philanthropist who has excelled in all of his undertakings.

Mr. Flynn is a leader in this church, the business community and the peace movement in Northern Ireland. He has served as a significant architect of the peace process in Northern Ireland, and is steadfast in his commitment to a just and lasting peace in all of Ireland.

Mr. Speaker, William Flynn is also an active leader and participant in numerous church, charitable, political, and social organizations. Mr. Flynn answers to the title of husband, father, grandfather, chairman, president, Knight of Malta and now grand marshal. But perhaps the most fitting and worthy title for William J. Flynn is that of peacemaker.

Scripture tells us that “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God.” William J. Flynn is truly a peacemaker.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize the achievements of William J. Flynn, and I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring him as we prepare to celebrate the feast of Saint Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland.

DO NOT IMPERIL OUR CHILDREN'S FUTURE

HON. MATTHEW G. MARTINEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 1996

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to protest the new majority’s plans for education. The appropriations legislation put forth before the House last week would make the largest cut in education in our history. My home State of California stands to lose almost \$400 million. Programs that serve the neediest children were not even spared. A large share of the cut in funding for California—\$122.3 million—is a reduction in education for disadvantaged children. Both the safe and drug-free schools and bilingual education programs are cut by 60 percent.

Members on the other side of the aisle argue that we must balance our budget for the future of our children and our children's children. However, how can we guarantee them any future if we cut education to do this? This is not just talk from a politician trying to save a bureaucracy, as some alleged that my colleagues were doing during debate last Thursday. Students, parents, educators, and local school officials have called upon us to protect the Federal investment in education and our children.

Dr. Gary Rapkin, superintendent of the Mountain View School district in El Monte asserted that:

Federal education programs are strongly supported by the very people responsible for implementing local control, including school board members, school administrators, teachers, and other education employees, parents, and students. The loss of these funds can not be easily replaced, either by local tax increases, tuition increases or private efforts. Please support America's students by opposing cuts in Federal education programs and providing students and schools the resources they need to extend educational and economic opportunity to every American.

Miss Cyle J. Alt, president of the Montebello Teachers Association, recently stated:

Cuts that hurt education, and therefore children are misguided. The budget should not be balanced on the backs of children. I urge you to oppose any proposal, whether regular appropriations or continuing resolutions, that would cut education in fiscal year 1996.

Dr. Terry J. Larsen, the K-12 special projects coordinator for the Alhambra School district, wrote:

I understand that education is facing a cut of \$3 billion or 20 percent—the largest in history. That is unacceptable. A strong educational system is the backbone of a strong nation. These cuts must not stand.

Mr. Ronald W. Johnson, the director of financial aid at UCLA, attested that:

In this era of increased technology, that will usher in the new millennium, the educational preparation for our precollege youth must be supported as a critical funding priority. The inappropriateness of funding reductions to elementary and secondary schools is exacerbated by the dramatic increases in expenditures for prisons in many States across the Nation. The cost for incarcerating one felon is approximately \$23,000 a year. It is inexcusable that such expenditures would be considered a priority, rather than the proactive investment to K-12 education, higher education, health care systems, and human resource systems. Your continued support for educational funding will provide economic opportunity and inclusive participation in our society, which is vitally important to our national interest.

Finally, I am including in the RECORD this resolution adopted by the Los Angeles City Board of Education last December. It expresses the board's "opposition to reductions in Federal education assistance" and, I believe graphically illustrates the impact that proposed education appropriations will have on one of the largest school districts in the Nation.

I urge my colleagues to heed their consciences and do what is right for America's children.

OPPOSITION TO REDUCTIONS IN FEDERAL EDUCATION ASSISTANCE

(Adopted by the Los Angeles City Board of Education, December 4, 1995)

Whereas, The United States Congress is cutting Federal support for local education programs in an unprecedented manner, with the deepest reductions affecting California schools;

Whereas, These cuts may result in the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) losing over \$72 million in assistance for disadvantaged students, the single largest cut in funding to Los Angeles schools since Federal support for education began 30 years ago;

Whereas, The poverty rate among students in LAUSD averages about 60 percent and Title I, a Federal program which helps low-income students learn basic reading and math skills, may be cut in Los Angeles by over \$24 million;

Whereas, 57 percent of students who attend LAUSD schools speak English as a second language, and Federal assistance to help students learn English may be cut by the Congress by \$104 million nationwide; and

Whereas, Additional cuts to Federal programs which help reduce drug abuse and dropout rates, prevent violence in schools, and help provide students with vocational skills have already been made by the House of Representatives: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education of the City of Los Angeles oppose Federal cuts in education assistance, and urge our Congressional delegation to vote against any education reductions; and be it

Resolved further, That the Board urge the President of the United States to oppose these cuts and veto any legislation that reduces the Federal government's obligation to provide education assistance to the country's neediest students.

IN HONOR OF JEFFREY WHARFF

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 1996

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today before my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to pay tribute to a student of outstanding academic achievement, Jeffrey Wharff. It is my deepest pleasure to bring to your attention good news, Mr. Jeffrey Craig Wharff of Rochester Hills, MI, was conferred the honor of a Doctorate of Philosophy in the discipline of economics by The American University on January 28, 1996.

Mr. Wharff graduated from Rochester Adams High School in 1980. He then went on to attend Oakland Community College in Auburn Hills, MI. After four semesters he, encouraged by his success, applied and earned entrance to the American University in Washington, DC. Immediately, Jeffrey found his intellectual passion for economics. Following completion of his undergraduate degree in 1987, he swiftly earned his Masters of Arts and has now demonstrated his devotion to the field with a Ph.D.

On behalf of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Donovan Wharff of Rochester Hills, MI; brother Bradley Wharff of Rochester Hills, MI, wife Terri; James Lambert and Mary Matson, his

close friends; and Uncle and Aunt, Dr. and Mrs. Robert Richard of Bloomfield Hills, MI, I am pleased to convey their pride and deepest contentment of his outstanding achievement.

We must commend not only Jeffrey's private endeavor but, also, those Michigan educators, elementary through post-secondary, for their interest and commitment which shaped a bright young mind into perpetual curiosity and tenacity of purpose, and provided him with the foundation to find delight in the complex. His accomplishment is a testament to their success and the success of the public educational system.

Mr. Speaker, it is indeed an honor and pleasure for me to rise today to pay tribute to this outstanding student. I know that Jeffrey Wharff will pursue his interests with the same zeal as he did his academic achievements. I wish him well in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERTA CALVERT HEYER

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 1996

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, and colleagues, I rise today to honor a great friend and community leader who passed away recently—Roberta Calvert Heyer.

Roberta Heyer was an accomplished painter, landscape artist, educator, civil rights activist, and civic leader.

A San Diego State University graduate with a master of arts degree in art history, Roberta taught elementary school in the 1950's, and art history at Cuyamaca and Mesa Community Colleges from 1976 to 1989. Her knowledge and expertise in art and historical architecture led to her appointment to the Old Town Planned District Review Board, where she served for 5 years.

A resident of the Encanto community since 1958, Roberta organized workshops at her neighborhood school, Encanto Elementary School, to provide art education to students.

In the 1960's, Roberta served as vice president of the local Citizens for Racial Equality. Her work in establishing human relations programs in San Diego schools to foster racial harmony and understanding was recognized by an appointment as the city of San Diego's representative to the County Human Relations Commission.

Roberta won the respect and admiration of her friends, family, and community for her sense of humor, her community involvement, and her dedication to our democratic principles and values.

In this lifetime, we come across a small number of special people—those who touch our minds, hearts, and souls with their activism, optimism, and dedication to making everyone's life richer. Roberta was one of those chosen few. My thoughts and prayers go out to her husband, Warren, and her family, friends, and the community. This world needs more people like Roberta Calvert Heyer—she will be missed.