

Normal to Chicago, where they held a protest rally outside the EEOC office there. Mitsubishi not only paid for the buses, they also closed the assembly line for two full shifts, they paid regular salaries to those workers who made the trip to Chicago, and they provided lunch for the protesters.

Mr. Speaker, this is not the way we in the United States settle discrimination suits. Under the rule of law, these issues are decided upon in a court of law based upon their merits. The EEOC is a Federal agency entrusted with enforcing our country's laws against discrimination based on race, sex, religion, age, etc. That agency takes seriously those responsibilities, and it does not file frivolous lawsuits. A protest outside the EEOC's office in Chicago indicates to me that Mitsubishi's legal case must be particularly weak. In addition, a rowdy protest does not strike me as doing anything to resolve the serious legal issues involved here. It may, however, be beneficial to the careers of the American managers of the Normal plant.

Second, Mr. Speaker, this protest strikes me as a tactic to pressure the workers at the Mitsubishi plant to oppose the EEOC suit. Those who went to Chicago to protest against the sexual harassment suit publicly signed a list to indicate their intention to go to Chicago. Those employees who chose not to go were forced to appear at the factory in order to be paid. Clearly the way in which that protest was organized put intolerable pressure on Mitsubishi employees. Such pressure tactics against its employees should be firmly condemned.

Third, Mr. Speaker, based on some of my own activities here in the Congress, there is sound basis for concern about the real possibility of sexual harassment in this case. For 6 years during the 100th through the 102d Congresses, I had the privilege of serving as Chairman of the Subcommittee on Employment and Housing of the Government Operations Committee. During that period of time I held a series of hearings on "Employment Discrimination by Japanese Firms in the United States" (July 23, August 8, September 24, 1991, and February 26 and June 18, 1992). We found a pervasive pattern of lack of sensitivity to issues of discrimination by a number of Japanese firms. Among our very serious concerns was strong evidence of sexual discrimination.

What our hearings found was a surprising and very disturbing insensitivity on the part of Japanese management to American laws and American practices against sexual harassment and against sexual discrimination. Mr. Speaker, these practices by Japanese management were exposed and in some cases changes were made by the firms involved, but I would be surprised indeed to find that these problems have been eliminated completely. Clearly if the EEOC charges are true, it reflects a serious lack of sensitivity on the part of Mitsubishi management, and that management has the responsibility to see that sexual harassment does not take place at its plant.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the EEOC for its vigilance in dealing with these serious charges, and I urge the Commission to move forward. These charges should be completely aired and resolved through our legal system. I also urge the management of Mitsubishi to put aside its tawdry and counterproductive public relations tactics and respect the rights of its own workers.

JEWISH WAR VETERANS, NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT CELEBRATES CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 23, 1996

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, this year, 1996, the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America is celebrating its 100th anniversary. As part of these nationwide commemorations, the Jewish War Veterans Department of New Jersey is having a military ball at the Officers Club, Gibbs Hall, Fort Monmouth, on Thursday, April 25.

The Centennial Journal being issued by the New Jersey Department in conjunction with this important anniversary is dedicated to the memory of Stanley J. Wides, past department commander and executive director. Thursday's event is also an opportunity to honor past national commanders.

Mr. Speaker, it is always a pleasure for me to pay tribute to the New Jersey Jewish War Veterans. The Jewish War Veterans is the oldest active veterans organization in the country, and it is an honor to work on behalf of their agenda and on behalf of those men and women who sacrificed so much to safeguard our freedoms here at home and to make the world safe and free for future generations. I wish them great success on tomorrow evening's ball at Fort Monmouth, and I look forward to continued partnership with this great organization with its long, distinguished and proud history.

TRIBUTE TO ALOIS VANA, RETIRED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE BERWYN PARK DISTRICT

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 23, 1996

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to an outstanding gentleman from my district who has devoted himself to his community, Mr. Alois Vana, the retired executive director of the Berwyn, IL, Park District, who will receive the All Berwyn Committee's 1996 Merit Award April 26.

Mr. Vana, a Berwyn native who grew up across the street from one of the parks he would eventually oversee, joined the district as superintendent in 1958, and he served his community for 37 years before retiring December 31, 1995.

Mr. Vana, an Army veteran, also served as president of the Berwyn Kiwanis Club and United Way, and has contributed to many other charitable and civic organizations, including the West Suburban Council of the Boy Scouts of America and the Berwyn Tree Board.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Mr. Vana on receiving this honor from the All Berwyn Committee and wish him many more years of service to his community.

COMMENDING THE NEW YORK TIMES ON ITS EARTH DAY EDITORIAL

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 23, 1996

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring the attention of my colleagues to the following Earth Day editorial which appeared in the April 22, 1996, New York Times.

This editorial correctly points out that the American public will not be fooled by the hollow illustrations of environmentalism displayed today in the districts of many congressional Republicans—the same Members of Congress who, over the past year, have consistently voted for legislation to repeal decades of environmental protection for our air, our water, and our public lands. Planting a tree, collecting litter or visiting a zoo today will do little to mask the year-long environmental assault orchestrated by the Republican Congress.

As noted in the editorial, the persistent Republican efforts to include antienvironmental riders on the appropriations bills for the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of the Interior are most egregious. Although both of these bills have been vetoed by President Clinton, Republicans still insist on including many of the most offensive provisions in an omnibus budget bill to fund the agencies through the end of the fiscal year. Even Speaker GINGRICH has acknowledged that including objectional policy riders in appropriations bills greatly reduces their chances of eluding another Presidential veto. Today's Washington Post quotes the Speaker as estimating that the chances of passing a funding bill for the remaining agencies is "probably about 50-50" but that the odds improve if the contentious policy riders were removed and debated separately.

I commend the New York Times for its continually excellent editorials and note that the 1996 Pulitzer Prize awarded to Robert B. Stemple, Jr., for his editorials on environmental issues is richly deserved.

DEFENDING MOTHER NATURE

The television networks and cable channels are falling over each other to satisfy a growing public appetite for nature programming. An article in The Times last week noted that wildlife programs, once the preserve of the Public Broadcasting Service, have spread like mangroves to NBC, Turner Broadcasting, the Discovery Channel and Disney, among others. This is welcome news. Quite apart from the fact that such programming is of a higher order than most television fare, its popularity is further evidence of what the polls have already told us. Americans care about what is left of their natural resources and the threatened creatures who inhabit them.

Viewers would be equally well served, however, if television stole just a few minutes from the air time now devoted to wolves, wildflowers, sharks and salmon and trained its cameras on the denizens of the United States Congress, where a less inspiring show is taking place. Undaunted by a string of Presidential vetoes, heedless of public opinion and deaf to the pleas of their moderate colleagues, conservative Republicans and a few stray Democrats are pressing forward with their efforts to undermine the country's basic environmental laws.

There are many destructive proposals on the Congressional agenda, including several

bills that would transfer millions of acres of public land to state and commercial jurisdiction. But the most urgent example of bad legislation is an omnibus appropriations bill now under consideration in a House-Senate conference. The bill sharply reduces appropriations for the Environmental Protection Agency and the Interior Department and contains a dozen or so crippling anti-environmental riders. The worst of these riders would authorize increased logging in old-growth forests, reduce protection for the Mojave National Preserve, strip the Environmental Protection Agency of its power to protect wetlands and extend an earlier moratorium on any new listings of endangered plants and animals under the Endangered Species Act.

The listings rider should be of special interest to the viewers of those nature programs. Under law, the Interior Department cannot act to preserve the habitat of an endangered species unless it is listed as such. Among the 250 species that scientists think are dangerously close to extinction, but cannot now be listed by the department's Fish and Wildlife Service, are three that occasionally pop up on TV—the Florida black bear, the Atlantic salmon and the Mexican jaguar. Unless Congress comes to its senses, these and other creatures may survive only on celluloid.

Today marks the 26th anniversary of Earth Day. In full knowledge of that, House Speaker Newt Gingrich recently formed a 77-member Republican environmental task force. Although 36 members of this task force earned "zero" ratings from the League of Conservation Voters for their routine support of anti-environmental legislation, many of them are likely to spend the week planting trees, visiting zoos and striking friendly poses next to recycling bins. But the best thing Mr. Gingrich could do for his country and his party would be to recognize that what counts here is content, not imagery—and remove those riders from the appropriations bill.

TRIBUTE TO JACK ELLIS

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 23, 1996

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise to pay tribute to a distinguished educator and a good friend, Mr. Jack Ellis. Jack is the music director at Lakeview High School in St. Clair Shores and was recently named as the Michigan Band/Orchestra Director of the Year.

I have known Jack for many years and he richly deserves the honor bestowed upon him. As in the hit film, Mr. Holland's *Opus*, Jack has been inspiring aspiring musicians and sharing his love of music for years. As one of his many talented students says, "[Jack] knows his music, but he teaches it in a down-to-earth way * * * He's humorous and he puts things at a level where we can understand it have fun."

It is obvious that his students "understand" because Lakeview's band and orchestra have received numerous awards and honors under Jack's tutelage. The band was Michigan's representative at the re-lighting of the Statue of Liberty and they have received many division one ratings at district festivals.

"Mister E," as Jack is fondly known by his students, makes sure to give all his students the individual attention they need. One thing I know he is proud of is the fact that he has

never turned a student away. As Jack says, "Not everyone has the gift of music. But if they've had a desire to be a part of this program, then we've found them a place."

While Jack also teaches honors European history and world studies, his passion is music. He says that the lessons learned in music cannot be gotten anywhere else. The discipline and cooperation required to create music brings diverse students together in a setting seldom found in any other subject or extracurricular activity. It is obvious that the harmonies created in Jack Ellis' class go far beyond what is merely heard by the ear.

Jack's wife Joellyn is also an award-winning teacher. She was honored as Lakeview Public School's Elementary Teacher of the Year. The students at Ardmore Elementary and Lakeview High School are lucky to have such gifted teachers and I am pleased to recognize their contributions. I commend both of them for their educational and civic contributions.

I congratulate Jack Ellis for the recognition he received from the State of Michigan and I urge my colleagues to join with me in thanking him for his work. He is proud to be a music teacher and he richly deserves being named Director of the Year.

IN TRIBUTE—NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 23, 1996

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join with countless Americans who are staunch supporters of the rights of victims of crime. This is National Crime Victims' Rights Week. Almost any daily newspaper you read will have front page headlines that scream out accounts of violent acts perpetrated against a host of victims. Readers are bombarded by statistics on murders, armed robberies, rapes, gang violence, domestic violence, drugs and much, much more. Where are the stories about the victims of those crimes? When is the last time that you read an account of the impact of a victim's statement on the outcome of a legal proceeding? All too often, victims are the last thought of while the criminal is protected by a long list of rights.

Those who work on behalf of victims of crime rarely receive the recognition that they deserve. Advocates come from all walks of life. Some are professionals, people who try to make a difference. Most, however, are volunteers who give selflessly of their time, energy and talents.

They are tireless; they are insistent; they are creative.

Along with my husband, Dexter Lehtinen, I worked on placing the protection of victims' rights in Florida's Constitution and then pressured the agencies to implement the provisions.

National Crime Victims' Rights Week is a time of reflection and a call to action. As an example of what a concerned community can achieve, I would like to share with you just a few of the accomplishments of victims' rights advocates from the Miami area. In selecting just a few examples, I salute the work of these individuals. But more importantly, by exten-

sion, I would like to pay tribute to all to have taken up this cause.

Victims themselves are often the best advocates. They have turned their misfortune, their grieving toward some wonderfully positive activities. John Walsh, father of six-year-old Adam, was instrumental in the founding of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. He will never have Adam back, but Adam's spirit is alive through the Center.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Ryce, grieving over the loss of their son, Jimmy, have stepped forward to share their message with anyone who will listen. They are working to establish a special training center at the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children which will be dedicated to educating law enforcement officers in how to investigate these sensitive cases, as well as bettering coordination among all our law enforcement agencies.

Mr. and Mrs. Luis Melendi lost their daughter, Shannon, over 2 years ago. Shannon disappeared from a softball field near the campus of Emory University in Atlanta, GA, and has not been heard from since. The Melendi's have taken their case to the public, pushing for stronger measures to prevent known criminals from victimizing others.

Potential victims can help themselves before they become victims. Taking a proactive approach, the Miami Junior League, in conjunction with AT&T, is collecting used cellular telephones in order to give them to women at risk of domestic violence. The phones will be preprogrammed with access to 911, so that help can be summoned immediately in case of attack.

These examples highlight just a few of the many, diverse ways in which victims can assert their rights. I would especially like to highlight the work of Howard Greenstein, the Director of the Dade County Department of Justice System Support, who has been a staunch defender of victims' rights for years. May these individuals and their organizations have great success; may their creativity be encouraged and supported. May we remember the victims.

SIKH INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 23, 1996

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Sikh nation on the 297th anniversary of its founding, Vaisakhi Day, which occurred this past April 13. We join in celebrating the heritage of these courageous people.

On this Vaisakhi Day, the Sikh nation struggles to secure the blessings of liberty which we in America and most the Western World enjoy. Sikhs have long supported the idea of freedom for all people. As a free nation, it is our duty to help them live in freedom in their own country.

The Sikh nation's heritage of freedom most recently manifested itself on October 7, 1987, when the Sikh nation declared the independence of the Sikh homeland, Khalistan. Sikhs had previously ruled themselves from 1710 through 1716 and again between the years of 1765 and 1849. When Britain left the subcontinent in 1947, the Sikh nation was one of only