

Highway, and maintain hiking trails. Gorge Appreciation Week is an excellent way of involving citizens in the guardianship of the natural value of their community.

None of this would be possible without the 2,000 members of Friends of the Columbia Gorge from across the country. Through the dedication of these individuals to the preservation of the area, the Gorge continues to be a wonderful place to live and work, as well as a unique place for visitors.

The Gorge holds a special place in both our heritage and our future on a national, regional, and local level. I want to be a strong voice for those, such as the Friends, who support continuing the mission of protecting and enhancing this area. It is a national recreation destination and source of enjoyment and scenic beauty to the many who live, work, and vacation there.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE STUDENTS OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. MID- DLE SCHOOL

##### HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 19, 1997*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the students of Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School in Madera, CA for their awareness and concern for the importance of soil for America's farmers. These students exemplify a care for the community and a dedication to hard work.

The students of Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School promoted awareness of soil in 1993 through student research and letters to soil scientists in all 50 States. The students received a tremendous response from all over the country about many diverse soils, including information and samples. The students began to initiate conversations with—and enlisted the help of—a number of soil scientists as they looked at the possibilities of writing a solution to the problem of soil awareness.

The title of the interdisciplinary project that was created is "Proposing an Official State Soil—Preserving a Legacy to Future Generations." The program focuses on California soil and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School student body, which studied the processes of promoting legislation, the historical events that have taken place on and the practical uses of California soil.

Students researched the history and origin of soil, worked on statistics utilizing various soil characteristics, and wrote a resolution known as Senate Bill Number 389, which proposed an adoption of the San Joaquin Series Soil as the Official State Soil. On April 17, 1997, the Senate passed SB-389.

The support and guidance of Ron Williams, principal of Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School, and Alex Lehman, were instrumental in the success of the program. Additional support was provided by additional faculty at Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School, including: Nadia Samarin; Mike Dawson; Teresa Varlas; and Bill Lutjens.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I pay tribute to the students of Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School. Their commitment to raising soil awareness is commendable to say the least. I ask my colleagues to join me in wish-

ing the students of Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School best wishes for future success.

#### A TRIBUTE TO MARIO DE LOS COBOS

##### HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 19, 1997*

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mario de los Cobos for his dedicated service to the Ventura County Economic Development Association [VCEDA] and for his personal and civic leadership in our community.

VCEDA is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing a link between the private and public sector. They serve our community by focusing on any and all issues which may affect our region from education to the environment. As president of VCEDA, Mario's main contribution was his work with the Economic Development Collaborative, where he was instrumental in assuring that the private sector would have a voice in the use of defense conversion grants and earthquake disaster relief. His dedication to building bridges between the private and public sectors is extraordinary.

Mario has also served as a reserve police officer for 7 years. His desire and work toward making the community a better and safer place to live is greatly appreciated. But most outstanding is Mario's commitment to the leadership of our people. He has served on the board of directors for the Ventura County Community Foundation, as chairman of the board of the United Way and as a member of the Governor's task force for Camarillo State Hospital. He has done this all in the name of making life better for as many people as possible in our community. It is for this extraordinary dedication to our community that we honor him here today.

Henry David Thoreau once said that doing good was the only full profession. Mario believes that doing good is not only a profession but a way of life. I join Mario's family, friends, colleagues and the citizens of our community in recognizing Mario de los Cobos for his leadership and community service. It is an honor to represent him and I wish him luck on all future endeavors.

#### HONORING JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT OF SOUTH CENTRAL PENN- SYLVANIA ON THEIR 35TH ANNI- VERSARY

##### HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 19, 1997*

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize Junior Achievement of south central Pennsylvania on their 35th anniversary. This evening many business leaders, educators, students and families will gather for the 35th Anniversary Celebration of Excellence and Hall of Fame.

Junior Achievement has provided great opportunity to students by helping them learn the basic principles of business and competition,

thereby creating the most skilled and competitive work force ensuring America continues as a leader in the world marketplace. They have fostered partnerships in the community and provided a real link between the classroom and the business community by giving students hands-on experience and the chance to work with professionals.

I am also pleased to honor a close friend, Jacqueline Summers, who has been instrumental in making Junior Achievement the quality organization it is. Jackie is a special person whose hard work and determination ensures excellence in everything she does.

I would like to recognize the chairman of the board, Robert Herzberger. Mr. Herzberger is the executive vice president of York Federal Savings and Loan. His knowledge and expertise has fostered the great success Junior Achievement has had in developing partnerships between business and education.

Mr. Speaker, this year two business and community leaders from Pennsylvania's 19th Congressional District will be inducted into the Hall of Fame. I am pleased to announce that Phillip H. Gladfelter II and Henry D. Schmidt will be the very first inductees. These gentlemen were the founders of Junior Achievement of south central Pennsylvania. Their vision and dedication has enabled thousands of young people to have access to the American dream.

What started out with 300 students in 1961 has grown to serve nearly 9,000 students from grades kindergarten through 12 in south central Pennsylvania. As chairman of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, I am extremely proud to honor and celebrate this example of excellence. Junior Achievement has been a tremendous success and is well deserving of special recognition.

#### THE SCHOOL BUS SAFETY ACT OF 1997

##### HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 19, 1997*

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, since 1985, 1,478 people have died in school bus-related crashes—an average of 134 fatalities per year. Although school bus related travel is the safest mode of transportation on America's roads today, more can, and should, be done to ensure the safety of this country's most cherished resources—our children. That is why I have introduced legislation that improves on existing technologies and maximizes safety for the 24 million children who ride buses to and from school each day.

My bill directs the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) to set national proficiency standards for school bus drivers. It directs the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to develop guidelines on the safe transportation in school buses of children under the age of five. It also applies Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations to interstate school bus operations. The bill also requires: a decrease in the flammability of materials used in the construction of the interiors of school buses; the establishment of construction, design, and securement standards for wheelchairs used in the transportation of students in school buses; and that buses be equipped with bumper sensors, wheel guards

and a system that detects a trapped obstacle in the door of the vehicle. The legislation requires the establishment of a national criminal history background check system to enable local education agencies, or contractors, to check the criminal background of any person applying for employment as a bus driver. It requires the Transportation Research Board of the National Academy of Science to conduct a study of the safety issues attendant to transportation of school children to and from school and school-related activities by various transportation modes, including public transit vehicles. And finally, my bill establishes a pilot program for one school district in the country to assess the benefits of equipping school buses with shoulder harness mechanisms, similar to the equipment used by flight attendants on passenger aircraft.

My bill makes modest common sense reforms to ensure that the children who ride our school buses each day have the safest mode of transportation possible. I urge my colleagues to support this important piece of legislation.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 1997

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I was necessarily absent during rollcall vote 210. If present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall 210.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE NEGRO BASEBALL LEAGUE

##### HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 1997

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I bring the attention of my colleagues to a very special event occurring in Atlanta, GA, next week. On the weekend of June 27, the Atlanta Braves and BellSouth will host a reunion and recognition event in honor of the legendary teams and players of the Negro Baseball League. Approximately 100 Negro leaguers from around the country, fans and friends will be convening in Atlanta to celebrate the remarkable achievements of an unheralded group of African-American men, members of the Negro Baseball League.

In this 50th anniversary year of Jackie Robinson's historic breaking of the color barrier in major league baseball, it is fitting and appropriate that Congress, citizens of Atlanta, and the entire Nation take a moment to pay tribute to the great African-American teams and players that made sports history. These were athletes who played with teams such as the Kansas City Monarchs, the New York Black Yankees, and the Baltimore Elite Giants. In the South, we had the Atlanta Black Crackers and the Birmingham Black Barons, to name but a few. Their daily triumphs were ignored by major newspapers of the Jim Crow era and their accomplishments have all but been overlooked in the annals of sports history. It cannot be denied, however, that the Negro Baseball League and the players that formed these

teams made immeasurable contributions to America's favorite pastime, our national sport, baseball.

The term "Negro Leagues" describes the all-professional, all-Negro baseball teams operating between 1880 and 1955, hundreds of which traveled throughout the United States during that time. The first Negro leagues started out in Kansas City, MO. Despite the hardships imposed by the Nation's rigid racial barriers, the Negro leagues managed not only to survive, but to thrive and grow. Even the prevailing myth of white supremacy could not deny the talents of these men. Author Robert Peterson, who chronicled the story of the leagues, perhaps summed it best with the title of his book, "Only the Ball Was White."

The league served as a showcase of talent and entertainment. The players were truly living legends. Many of the names of the great stars and the teams live on and form an integral part of our cherished sports history. The legendary Satchel Paige was a pitcher whose name is still synonymous with excellence. The league's Josh Gibson was one of the game's greatest hitters. Willie Mays, Roy Campanella, and the homerun king of all time, Hank Aaron, are all legends of the Negro Baseball League.

The significance of the leagues went far beyond the world of sports. The men who formed these teams were pioneers in nurturing and fostering self-pride among African-Americans. These sports heroes have left a powerful legacy that has enriched American history.

As some of the living legends of Negro baseball gather in Atlanta this month, I know my colleagues will join me in sending these outstanding men our appreciation for their glorious accomplishments and the enduring memories they have inscribed in the hearts and minds of millions of Americans.

#### IN HONOR OF BOB PRALLE ON HIS EIGHTIETH BIRTHDAY

##### HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 1997

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor Bob Pralle on his 80th birthday, June 29, 1997.

Bob Pralle is a remarkable individual whom I am proud to call a friend. His birthday is an excellent opportunity to recognize the tremendous contributions that he has made to the Orange County community throughout those 80 years.

As a trustee at Chapman University in Orange, CA, which is my alma mater, Bob has given his time and resources to further the educational goals of many individuals. To this extent, he has provided scholarships for college students, including myself, who may not have otherwise had the opportunity to pursue their dreams.

Over the years, Bob has given freely of his time and energy. His contributions as a major benefactor for the Providence Speech and Hearing Clinic have increased the effectiveness of this organization. As a co-founder and major supporter of the Stanton Boys and Girls Club he has provided a place of recreation for young boys and girls while providing them with a sense of community.

His important gifts to society as a fundraiser and philanthropist for the United Way and nu-

merous other community charities in southern California have distinguished Bob as a generous champion of humanity. Time and again Bob has given tirelessly of himself.

Bob Pralle is not only very special to me and to the numerous organizations to which he has given time and service, he is also very special to his family and his loyal friends. In so many ways, he has given time, hope, and inspiration to so many people.

I would like my colleagues to join me in wishing this very special individual, Bob Pralle, a very happy 80th birthday.

#### COLORADO AND THE TENTH AMENDMENT

##### HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 19, 1997

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today for the benefit of my colleagues and out of respect for the Colorado General Assembly, to enter Colorado House Joint Resolution 97-1027 into the RECORD. As the necessary and long-overdue process of welfare reform moves forward, I believe it is essential that Congress pay special attention to our State governments. Colorado House Joint Resolution 97-1027 passed by a vote of 59 to 6 in the House and unanimously in the State Senate, and I believe my colleagues should consider the opinions expressed by the people of Colorado through the following resolution:

#### HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 97-1027

By Representatives: McPherson, Adkins, George, Kaufman, Pfiffner, T. Williams, Allen, Anderson, Arrington, G. Berry, Clarke, Dean, Epps, Gotlieb, Keller, Lamborn, Lawrence, Miller, Musgrave, Nichol, Paschall, Schwarz, Sinclair, Smith, Sullivant, Swenson, Tool, Udall, and Young.

Also Senators: Lacy, B. Alexander, Ament, Coffman, Congrove, Schroeder, Arnold, Bishop, Blickensderfer, Chlouber, Dennis, Duke, Feeley, Hernandez, Hopper, J. Johnson, Martinez, Matsunaka, Mutzebaugh, Norton, Pascoe, Perlmutter, Phillips, Powers, Reeves, Rizzuto, Rupert, Tanner, Tebedo, Thiebaut, Wattenberg, Weddig, Wells, and Wham.

Whereas, The federal "Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996", Public Law 104-193, herein referred to as the "Act", was passed by the United States House of Representatives on July 18, 1996, and the United States Senate on July 23, 1996, and signed into law by President Clinton on August 22, 1996 and

Whereas, Article III of such Act addresses the several states obligation to provide child support enforcement services and mandates that the state adopt certain procedures for the location of an obligor and the establishment, modification, and enforcement of a child support obligation against such an obligor; and

Whereas, The members of the Sixty-first General Assembly recognize the importance of assuring financial support for minor and dependent children; however, the General Assembly finds that those procedures specified in the Act include such far reaching measures as the following:

(1) The necessity to implement the "Uniform Interstate Family Support Act", as approved by the American Bar Association and as amended by the National Conference of