

when it began sponsoring the "Honor Roll for Character-Building Colleges" guide book. This annual publication recognizes superior character-development in post-secondary institutions. I am grateful for the foundation's voice on this pressing issue.

Our children will shape our future. Society must work to ensure that their moral foundation does not crumble. I call on all people who care about our future to promote the virtues of our Nation's youth and support this resolution.

COMMENDING SHERWOOD KERKER
ON HIS UNIQUE CONTRIBUTIONS
TO LABOR JOURNALISM

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 28, 1997

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Sherwood Kerker's retirement from the St. Louis/Southern Illinois Labor Tribune.

The editor of the *Labor Tribune* has received several awards from the International Labor Communications Association for journalistic excellence, and is acknowledged for 40 years of loyalty in serving the members and families of the trade union movement throughout the Greater St. Louis/Southern Illinois Region.

Publisher Edward M. Finkelstein and the staff of the *Labor Tribune* will honor Sherwood Kerker at a "We Love You Sherwood" retirement luncheon to be held in St. Louis, MO, on August 28, 1997. I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Sherwood Kerker's unique contributions to labor journalism.

THE NEW MEXICO STATEHOOD
AND ENABLING ACT OF 1997

HON. STEVEN SCHIFF

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 28, 1997

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, as well as in the other body, for passage of S. 430 the New Mexico Statehood and Enabling Act of 1997.

This bill, introduced and supported by the entire New Mexico delegation, approves the changes made to the State constitution by the voters of New Mexico on November 6, 1996, which are specific to the New Mexico Land Grant Permanent Fund—established by the enabling act of 1910.

With these changes in place, New Mexico will be able to safeguard against the eroding effects of inflation to ensure that the fund will be able to help us meet tomorrow's educational needs.

This fund, which has grown to be the third largest educational endowment in the world, now comprises almost 14 percent of our State budget, and is a critical part of a better future for our children. So again, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues for their support.

A TRIBUTE TO CHARLES M.
SPRAFKA

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 28, 1997

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a stellar public servant who passed away recently.

Charles M. Sprafka, a native of Detroit Lakes, MN, and the associate Hennepin County administrator for human resources, died on June 24 following a long and courageous battle with pancreatic cancer.

Mr. Speaker, Chuck's career in public service was varied and characterized by the pursuit of excellence in every way. The people of my home county in Minnesota were well served by his stewardship and great desire to help people in their time of need.

President John F. Kennedy in his inaugural address on January 20, 1961, just outside this Chamber, declared: "Ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country." Chuck Sprafka did a great deal for his country, Mr. Speaker, and today I want to celebrate a dedicated public servant's inspiring commitment to his country and the people of Hennepin County he served so well.

Chuck Sprafka was named Hennepin County personnel director in 1984. In 1994, he was named associate county administrator for human resources, which made him a member of the Hennepin County administration's executive team.

Mr. Speaker, Chuck's record in public service was exemplary. In 1995, he was named recipient of the Twin Cities Personnel Association's "Award of Excellence." In May of this year, Hennepin County created an employee recognition award in his name.

His fellow workers in Hennepin County called Chuck The Rock. That's because, whenever there was a great challenge to be overcome, everyone turned to Chuck. His pioneering efforts produced a program called Quality Partnership Initiatives, a new county approach to improving the quality of service.

Quality is the theme that comes first to mind when you summarize the career of Chuck Sprafka for he truly represented the best in public service.

Mr. Speaker, Chuck was also very active in a numerous community and professional organizations, including the Industrial Relations Center Advisory Council, Minnesota Chapter of the International Personnel Management Association, and the national and Minnesota Public Employer Labor Relations Associations. He was also a member of the Human Resources Executive Council.

Chuck was a great high school athlete at Detroit Lakes High School, one of the best skaters in that school's history. He loved the outdoors, and was an avid sportsman. After receiving a bachelor's degree in mathematics and chemistry from Bemidji State University in 1968, he had a successful career in the business world. He then returned to school and earned a master's degree in industrial relations from the University of Minnesota in 1972, after which he went to work for Hennepin County, Minnesota's most populous county and one of the largest employers in the state. During his tenure at the county, he did graduate work in public administration at Harvard University.

Above all, Mr. Speaker, Chuck Sprafka was a dedicated and loving husband and father. As his lifelong friend Jon Boisclair put it, "Chuck's family meant the world to him, and he loved them dearly." Chuck will forever be missed by his loving wife, Jeannie, and his children, Collette, Rachelle, and Nicholas.

Mr. Speaker, Chuck Sprafka stood for all that's right with America, and his legacy will live on in the hearts and minds of all who were fortunate enough to know him.

ENVIRONMENTAL SLEIGHT OF
HAND IN REPUBLICANS' BUDGET
DEAL

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 28, 1997

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, once again the Republican leadership of the Congress has demonstrated its very strong hostility to policies to promote a strong environmental policy for this country.

I am sure that every Member of this House remembers that when the budget agreement was signed by the congressional leadership and President Clinton, it included at the President's insistence sufficient funding to acquire lands threatened with ruinous development that would present severe dangers to California's ancient redwood forest and to our first national park, Yellowstone. These development plans could result in the cutting of some of the most significant trees in North America—one of the very last ancient stands—and in the locating of a massive mine just upstream of Yellowstone Park.

Now, we included in the budget agreement sufficient moneys to acquire these lands, and then to provide additional acquisitions from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. As you know, some \$900 million each year comes into that fund from offshore oil and gas development on Federal lands, and that money by law is to be used for land acquisition. Instead, the Congress has refused to appropriate sufficient funding to keep up with the need to protect our national resources, and a \$12 billion surplus has developed in the fund.

The President thought he had struck a deal with the Republican leadership to provide \$65 million for the New World Mine lands, and another \$250 million for the Headwaters redwood grove, and then an additional \$295 million for other long-awaited acquisitions. That was an important part of the budget deal. And, frankly, I would have thought that a party whose environmental reputation is as justifiably low as the Republican Party's would have honored its commitment and its promise.

But instead, the Republicans have reneged on their agreement and, in the midst of the summer when tens of millions of Americans are enjoying our parks and other public lands, the Republicans in Congress have repudiated their commitment. The House bill provides no funding for these high priority park purchases, and the Senate bill is hardly better, adding additional, unnecessary bureaucratic steps that everyone knows will doom the funding.

I hope the public understands this Republican sleight of hand that clarifies once again that leadership's utter indifference to our national parks and other public lands. And I

would like to enter into the RECORD an editorial from today's New York Times that correctly challenges the Republicans in Congress for their failure to keep their promises on environmental protection.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROMISES TO KEEP

As part of their budget agreement with President Clinton last May, Republican leaders in Congress pledged to provide funds to protect several particularly vulnerable pieces of the American landscape from further degradation. They would give Mr. Clinton enough money to carry forward the largest environmental rescue operation ever undertaken—the restoration of Florida's Everglades. They would also approve generous funds for Federal land acquisition that would allow Mr. Clinton to purchase a potentially ruinous gold mining operation near Yellowstone National Park and to acquire California's Headwaters Redwood Grove from a private lumber company.

So far, Congress has not lived up to its end of the bargain. This puts a special obligation on senior Republicans like the Senate majority leader, Trent Lott, and Senator Pete Domenici, who helped negotiate the budget deal, to remind their colleagues that their party may suffer if they break good-faith commitments. It also means that the Administration cannot relax its vigil. Indeed, Mr. Clinton might think about threatening to veto any spending bills that do not contain the promised funds—a weapon he used to good effect in the last Congress when Republican conservatives tried to dynamite the country's basic environmental laws.

The Yellowstone and Headwaters projects are especially at risk. The House has refused to provide a penny of the \$700 million in extra money promised for land acquisitions, including \$65 million for the mine and \$250 million for the redwoods. The Senate appropriations committee approved the \$700 million but then added a caveat that could doom the Yellowstone and Headwaters purchases. The purchases cannot be consummated, it said, until Congress passes separate legislation specifically authorizing them. That would throw the matter back to the Senate's Energy and Natural Resources Committee, which is full of people eager to deny the President an environmental triumph.

The truth is that no separate authorizing legislation is required. The Interior Department and the Forest Service, which would carry out the deals, have pre-existing authority to make the acquisitions as long as the money is there. Mr. Lott and Mr. Domenici must see this mischievous and unnecessary language for what it is—an opening for anticonservationist Republicans to torpedo Mr. Clinton—and make sure it is removed when the bill comes to a floor vote.

The news about the Everglades is much better, at least so far. The appropriations committees in both houses have provided full funding for the Interior Department's Everglades Restoration Fund—a \$100 million program aimed primarily at creating buffer zones between the Everglades and two of its greatest threats, the agricultural regions to the north and the exploding urban populations to the east. This is only a small down payment on the Federal share of a restoration effort that may eventually cost \$3 billion to \$5 billion. But it is an important start.

At the same time, however, both the Senate and House have denied the Administration more than half the \$120 million it requested for restoration projects to be undertaken by the Army Corps of Engineers in South Florida. The corps plans a massive replumbing project aimed at replicating the historic flow of clean water from Lake Oke-

chobee southward to the Everglades and Florida Bay. This is a vital part of the overall scheme and for that reason was specifically promised in the budget agreement. To honor their word, Mr. Lott, Mr. Domenici and their counterparts on the House side, should make sure that these funds are restored.

The Republicans keep saying that they want to spruce up their environmental credentials. Breaking pledges on matters of transcendent interest to environmentalists is not the way to go about it.

A TRIBUTE TO THE CITY OF HIGHLAND

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 28, 1997

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to bring to your attention "Ten Years of Success", an anniversary celebration for the proud city of Highland, CA. On November 24, 1997, many people will be preparing to give thanks and commemorate our Nation's history of the day of Thanksgiving. The cold autumn air will bring in another different reason for the people of Highland to celebrate, as they will reach a great milestone in their own history, and ring in 10 years of existence as a city.

Do you believe in miracles?

The community and citizens of Highland certainly do. Many people, especially the so-called experts, warned in 1987 against incorporation of the community because they believed the proposed city was financially infeasible and would be bankrupt within the first 2 years of existence. I am more than pleased to report that the experts were wrong and the city of Highland is flourishing and growing with intensity. More importantly, the city is in relatively sound fiscal condition.

The future of the city of Highland, along with the successful maintenance of its fiscal approach, looks bright. If the past is any indication of the future, those who believe in the miracle and call the city of Highland home will be able to do so for many more years to come. May the next 10 years be even better than the past for the citizens of this great community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me, our colleagues, and the many proud people who call the city of Highland their home, in recognizing a decade of success. This November all of us will recognize that miracles never cease to flourish in the city of Highland.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CASS BALLENGER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 28, 1997

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, had I been present for rollcall votes 298 and 299 on July 22, I would have voted "yea." In addition, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote 319 and "yea" on rollcall vote 320 which occurred on July 24.

HONORING JEAN WILLIAMSON'S DEDICATION TO VOLUNTEER NURSING

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 28, 1997

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a remarkable woman. Jean Williamson has been a nurse at the Clearwater Free Clinic in Clearwater, FL, for 5 years. The clinic provides critical health services to many of my constituents in the ninth congressional district who otherwise would be unable to afford them. In fact, the clinic was able to treat over 7,000 patients last year alone—and that number is expected to rise this year.

In 1996, Jean earned the title "Volunteer of the Year," for her tireless efforts on behalf of the patients she serves. Perhaps not surprisingly, she is again likely to receive this accolade.

This year, Jean gave up her summer to serve as the interim executive director of the clinic. She was compelled to do so after the previous director resigned to take a national office. This selfless act has permitted the clinic's board to carefully search for the right replacement and has made the transition period far smoother than it otherwise would have been.

However, I believe the greatest tributes come not from the words of outsiders, but from those who work closely with Jean. One of her colleagues described her as, "one of the most dedicated and conscientious volunteers anywhere . . . she has set an example few can follow." It was because of people like Jean that Congress recently passed H.R. 911, legislation to protect volunteers from frivolous lawsuits which arise out of their service. I am pleased to have been a cosponsor of this important bill to protect people like the volunteers of the Clearwater Free Clinic.

Mr. Speaker, in an age when volunteerism has declined, I would like very much to congratulate Jean for her unselfish and outstanding work at the Clearwater Free Clinic. She serves as a shining example for other volunteers around the country. I would ask that our colleagues join me in wishing her continued success with her work at the clinic and, indeed, with all of her future endeavors.

IN MEMORY OF U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE NORMAN BLACK OF HOUSTON

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 28, 1997

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my Houston colleague Mr. GENE GREEN and myself, I rise to honor the memory of a valued and respected member of the Federal judiciary and a constituent, Senior U.S. District Judge Norman W. Black, and chief judge emeritus of the southern district of Texas, who passed away on July 23, 1997. As much as the community of Houston loved and respected Judge Black, his family has suffered an even greater loss.