

That is why we are dedicating this Veterans Memorial Plaza today, to remember all of those who stood fast and held the line against tyranny, from the bridge at Concord to the sands of the Persian Gulf, and to say thank you . . . for without their courage, their dedication and their willingness to die for what was right, we would not be here today.

Those we honor today died so that we might enjoy life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Their legacy carries with it a tremendous burden—the responsibility to live our lives so that we may vouchsafe that for which they gave their lives . . . our freedom.

Freedoms won on distant battlefields can be lost in an instant here at home if we do not carry on the fight against tyranny.

No one knows better than a veteran that service to America does not end when you come home from the war. We fought for freedom and we've seen our friends die for freedom, but in spite of the great sacrifices of our fallen patriots of the past, we have become a nation morally adrift—without compass or rudder, sacrificing the generations we fought and died for to an enemy we cannot see.

In our wars, fought on the fields of battle, the enemy wore uniforms and carried weapons—rifles, bayonets, grenades—he was identifiable and we were armed and trained to recognize and defeat him.

Today, a far more insidious enemy is already on our shores striking at the very soul of America. Today's enemy does not wear a uniform or fight with bayonets or grenades. He uses our media, he preys on the carnal desires of our communities—he pollutes our childrens' minds with filth and their bodies with drugs—he has taken God out of our institutions and desecrates our flag with the approval of our Government. There are no distant drums of war signaling our peril—no fox holes, trenches, bayonets or grenades in this war. The ammunition is knowledge, which we must all continue to seek . . . and the battle is fought in the city halls, the courthouses, the legislatures, and the Congress.

I say to you here today, you patriots and protectors of our progeny and their heritage, as Patrick Henry stated, "the enemy is in the field . . . why stand we here idle?"

Thank God the people we honor today lived. Thank God that they cared enough about our country and its future that they laid down their lives to preserve it, and thank God that with His help we may have the strength and determination to carry on and make this again the "One Nation Under God" for which they died. It is a tremendous responsibility, but we owe it to them and to future generations.

The future begins today, the future begins with us. May God continue to bless America and may he bless us all in our righteous endeavors.

This I say humbly, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen!

PREScribed BURN PROGRAMS

HON. JAMES E. ROGAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 1, 1997

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing H.R. . . . The intent of this legislation is to slightly amend the Clean Air Act so that appropriate Federal, State, and local entities may conduct prescribed burn programs in non-attainment areas for a test period of 10 years.

Prescribed burns under limited conditions are essential to the life and health of our for-

ests, to clean air, to the protection and propagation of species, and to increased water yields.

A carefully managed burn program will also lead to reduced floods and mudslides, and to the reduction of overall firefighting costs. These savings would then be made available for a wide variety of highly beneficial activities contained in forest management programs.

With more than 100 years of fire suppression history behind us, we know the current strategy is not working. Wildfires in these older fuel beds occur more frequently. These infernos burn several hundred degrees hotter. They burn larger areas and result in greater damage and costs.

Two decades ago, we spent an average of \$100,000 per year to put out wildfires; today we spend \$1 billion.

We experience multimillion dollar wildfires in the Angeles National Forest almost every year with the tragic and often unnecessary loss of homes, wildlife, trees, and watershed.

We cannot afford to let wildfires in the Angeles National Forest, and other U.S. forests that about urban areas burn hotter, bigger, and faster. These types of tragedies grow even more lethal, destructive and expensive to fight.

Prescribed burns, when used wisely, have been effective in reducing the size of wildfires. But we cannot currently use them in our area to the extent necessary because smoke from a prescribed burn is charged against air standards within the framework of the Clean Air Act by Environmental Protection Agency [EPA], the California Air Resources Board [CARB], and the South Coast Air Quality Management District [SCAQMD]. As such, prescribed burns are rarely and inadequately approved by the EPA.

The irony in this situation is that the EPA, while regulating all planned, open agricultural burning, forgives, naturally enough, wildfires, which produce 10 to 15 times the emissions and particulates when compared to prescribed forest burns.

We ask that a program of limited prescribed burns in wildland setting be allowed by the EPA for a period of 10 years, with the Forest Service monitoring the results in terms of air pollution, forest survival and health, species diversification, and suppression cost reduction.

Michael Rogers, forest supervisor of the Angeles National Forest, has given his support for limited prescribed burns in an unequivocal and straightforward manner. He said: "In Southern California we live with a fire-adaptive ecosystem. All our plants and animals have adapted to a high frequency of fires. We can either manage this situation through the proactive use of prescribed fire, or be held hostage by damaging wildfires that result in loss of life, property, natural resources with astronomic costs attributed to both the wildfires and the floods that follow wildfires."

It is time to use the restorative and productive use of fire to fight fires and to make our forest and living environs safer, cleaner, healthier, and more attractive.

CONGRATULATIONS TRI-CITY SER

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 1, 1997

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, we want to help every willing American to help find and keep

a job. To that end, the Federal Government has provided a number of job training programs that depend upon skilled local operators to provide assistance to those seeking new or improved skills. I am proud to let our colleagues know that one such provider in my congressional district, Tri-City SER, which operates with offices in both Saginaw and Bay City, has been selected as the 1997 Community Based Organization of the Year by the Michigan Works! State Association.

This distinction has been awarded for its success in implementing its case management system, its co-location with other service providers, and the results of its Work First Job Search Program. The Tri-City SER Case Management System serves those residents of Bay County who participate in the Work First Program and Job Training Partnership Act programs. The case manager serves as an advocate for the program participant. The manager helps by determining the training plan that the participant should follow, and provides support to the individual by monitoring his or her progress in training, on in maintaining employment.

People who are in need of assistance often find that the array of programs available to them is confusing, or the effort necessary to take advantage of them is beyond their capability. For that reason, Tri-City SER co-located with the Michigan Employment Security Agency creating the "No Wrong Door Center." This center provides a one-stop location for employers and job seekers who need to deal with employment services, unemployment insurance, Michigan Rehabilitation Services, JTPA and Work First case management, and on-the-job training funds. It also acts as a resource center to help people seeking jobs.

The ultimate goal of job training is getting a job. But many candidates for employment have difficulty in knowing how to find a job. That is why Tri-City SER provides the Work First job search effort, geared toward pre-employment training and assistance with resume writing, interview skills, and completing applications. Help is also provided in making the correct first impression with suggestions for proper attire for both interviews and actual employment.

This award is the culmination of efforts made by individuals too numerous to mention. It was the result of the creativity and determination of a program staff that truly believes in its goal of helping people find and retain jobs. It also is testimony to all of the participants in the program who took advantage of what was being offered and made it a success worthy of duplication in many areas around Michigan and the Nation. Mr. Speaker, I urge you and all of our colleagues to join me in congratulating Tri-City SER on being named in 1997 Community Based Organization of the Year. It is an honor they have earned.

IN RECOGNITION OF OCTOBER 4,
1997—DAY OF CONSCIENCE TO
END CHILD LABOR AND SWEAT-
SHOP ABUSES

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 1, 1997

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support and pay tribute to the thousands of

people who will be participating in the National Day of Conscience To End Child Labor and Sweatshop Abuses. On Saturday, October 4, 1997, people across our Nation and across the globe will join in a call to end child labor and sweatshops and to kick off the Holiday Shopping Season of Conscience.

As part of a 3-month national and international mobilization beginning on Saturday, October 4, 1997, thousands of organizations across our country will participate in vigils, rallies, walks for conscience, signing petitions, distributing of leaflets, demonstrations, and services. The National Day of Conscience will inaugurate the Holiday Shopping Season of Conscience—a national movement to encourage consumers to reward companies which turn away from sweatshops and labor exploitation and penalize those which continue to violate human rights.

Many people assume that the exploitation of children and the existence of sweatshops is a problem only in poorer countries or that it is a problem which does not exist in this country any longer. But many workers here in the United States still labor under exploitative conditions—long hours, subminimum wages, unsafe workplaces, and violations of child labor.

It will surprise many to learn that the United States ranks first among affluent nations in the rate of injury and death to working minors. Annually there are over 200,000 injuries of children and young people in our Nation's workplaces and 100 deaths among our working youth. In agriculture, 23,500 children are injured each year and more than 300 children die each year working in the fields. We cannot continue to allow our children's lives to be risked in hazardous, dangerous, or illegal work.

It will also surprise many to learn that sweatshops have returned in the United States in numbers and forms that are similar to the deplorable conditions that existed at the turn of the century. In 1995, Americans were shocked when investigators exposed the slave-like conditions of garment workers in El Monte, CA. Who can forget the young female immigrants from Thailand who were enslaved and forced to live in a compound encircled by razor wire? These women were forced to work 20-hour days in deplorable slave-like conditions for as little as \$1 per hour. The El Monte sweatshop, it was later revealed, made apparel for some of this country's top fashion labels.

Mr. Speaker, the El Monte case unfortunately is not an isolated instance. The GAO recently reported that 2,000 of 6,000 garment shops in New York City and most of the 5,000 shops in Los Angeles operate in violation of minimum wage, overtime, or child labor laws. The National Day of Conscience and the Holiday Shopping Season of Conscience are an effort to make consumers aware of companies which are the worst sweatshop and child labor violators.

Mr. Speaker, I do not think that Americans knowingly purchase products made by children or by a worker who is forced to work under harsh and degrading sweatshop conditions. The great value of the National Day of Conscience and the Holiday Season of Conscience is that through wide participation and education consumers can be encouraged to avoid purchasing goods produced in sweatshops and by illegal child labor, and we can bring about an end to sweatshops and exploitation of our children.

Mr. Speaker, we can do much more to make our Nation's children's lives safer and more secure as they enter the work force. My good friend and colleague, TOM CAMPBELL, along with another 38 of our colleagues, have joined together in supporting comprehensive domestic child labor law reform. This legislation, H.R. 1870, the Young American Workers' Bill of Rights Act, sets new minimum standards for protecting children in the workplace and assuring time for academic achievement during the school year, while still allowing for beneficial work experience.

Mr. Speaker, this weekend will mark the beginning of a significant mobilization by consumers and grassroots organizations to end sweatshop abuses and child labor both here and abroad. It is my hope that we in the Congress will mobilize support here in the Congress to enact legislation which will ensure that the job opportunities for our youth are meaningful, safe, and healthy.

HONORING THE MASON DISTRICT NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PRO- GRAM AND ALL OF ITS PARTICIPANTS

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 1, 1997

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a neighborhood organization that is making a difference in the quality of life in northern Virginia. The Fairfax County Mason District Police Department is honoring its neighborhood watch participants on Saturday, October 4, 1997. This day of appreciation celebrates the success of a program which has helped the general crime rate to decline steadily since 1988.

The neighborhood watch participants throughout the Mason District are dedicated individuals who selflessly offer their time to improve their community. The Mason District has the largest number of and most active volunteers in northern Virginia. As a former county supervisor from the Mason District, I can attest to the dedication of those involved in the neighborhood watch. All of those in the Mason District share a tremendous sense of pride in the accomplishments of our neighborhood watch.

The individuals who work in this program coordinate with the police so they may keep abreast of crime in or around their community. The time and energy they give in walking their neighborhoods, tracking suspicious activities, people, and cars helps the Fairfax County police deter would-be criminals. The savings to taxpayers through the years has been millions of dollars, and the savings in crime deterred has also been measurable. The neighborhood watch program in Mason District proudly shows its strength and its numbers every year at the national night out where most of the over 100 watch patrols participate. The participants in this program have truly proven that getting involved in your community does make a difference. Those who take the time to cast a watchful eye on their surroundings ensure that they have a safer and more friendly place to live. The Parklawn neighborhood watch discovered a fire at Glasgow intermediate school in its early stages. Their early detection meant

that firefighters arrived early and saved the school from serious damage. In other instances, leads established by the watch have led to solving burglaries and convicting car thieves.

The members and coordinators of the Mason District neighborhood watch work in one of the most diverse communities in the Washington area. They often bridge culture and language gaps to come together and build safer neighborhoods. Often, the Mason District neighborhood watch has led to a better understanding of different cultures and backgrounds as people recognize that they share the same community values. One of the greatest assets of the Mason District neighborhood watch program is the bonds it has built between individuals and neighborhoods. The neighborhood watch is a program that truly brings neighbors together. In one instance, a widow and a widower met when paired together on a watch patrol in Sleepy Hollow. Six months later they were married. I can't promise every single person who volunteers for the watch in Mason District will be guaranteed a spouse, but it is clear that the neighborhood watch has brought many of its diverse population closer together.

I know my colleagues will join me in saluting the Mason District neighborhood watch organization that has had so much success. The Mason District neighborhood watch participants have certainly earned a day of appreciation. Their work has made the Mason District one of the nicest communities on our Nation.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EMANCIPATION OF ENSLAVED AFRICANS IN WHAT IS NOW THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTIAN-GREEN

OF VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 1, 1997

Ms. CHRISTIAN-GREEN. Mr. Speaker, last week I came to this floor to invite my colleagues and all Americans to join my constituents and I as we celebrate the 150th anniversary of the emancipation of enslaved Africans in what is now the U.S. Virgin Islands, the district I proudly represent.

Many of my colleagues have agreed to co-sponsor the resolution I have submitted in recognition of this significant event in our history, and I thank them for their support.

Mr. Speaker, today, October 1, we remember and celebrate the "firebun," which represents a continuation on the part of the people of the Virgin Islands, to achieve a yet greater degree of self-determination.

For while the events of July 3, 1848, represented the end of physical slavery, the firebun which occurred 30 years later, was a victory over economic slavery.

You see, Mr. Speaker, 1 year after our emancipation in 1848, the Danish colonial government established the Provisional Labor Act to indenture workers for the continuation of the sugar cane industry on St. Croix.

A bare subsistence wage scale was established, fees were set to discourage off-island travel, and workers were restricted from changing jobs, or moving to another estate except on October 1 of each year.