

York City. He is a graduate of the New York Institute of Technology and is presently pursuing a Masters in Business Administration in International Business at the same school.

Leslie Nolan is the oldest child of Mary and Nicholas Nolan, Sr. of Upper Marlboro, Maryland. Until recently she resided in Bowie, Maryland. Leslie is employed by NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies as Assistant Chief for Outreach in New York City. She has 2 sisters & 1 brother, as well as 3 nieces and 1 nephew. Leslie is a graduate of the University of Maryland. Her paternal grandparents, John and Mary Nolan of Venice, Florida, recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. Her maternal grandparents, Jules & Iola Jorgenson, reside in Fremont, Nebraska.

TRIBUTE TO GOLDA GILCREASE
HENGST

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 24, 1997

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Golda Gilcrease Hengst on the occasion of her 100th birthday. The event will be celebrated on October 26, 1997.

Ms. Hengst was born on October 28, 1897 in Lemoore, CA. She had a romantic childhood playing in the orchards and vineyards of the rich California countryside before attending Lemoore Union High School. After studying at the University of California at Berkeley, she returned home and fell in love with William E. Hengst, a very successful car dealer. In those days, Mr. Hengst served double duty as a driving instructor, as most buyers of new automobiles had never even driven before.

William's skills were in great demand during World War I, so he answered our Nation's call by serving as an airplane mechanic in France. After the War, William and Golda were reunited and moved to Exeter, CA. Exeter brought the Hengst's more good fortune as they tried their hand at the plum farming business. The Hengst's plums soon became known for being of such high quality that they decided to patent two of their varieties. Today, their Golden Nectar and October Gem varieties remain industry leaders in taste, size, and pulp.

Along with ranching, Golda performed bookkeeping, served on the local school board and was a member of the Exeter Women's Club. She has been blessed with 5 daughters, 10 grandchildren, 20 great grandchildren and 12 great-great grandchildren. Currently, Golda remains fairly active and enjoys spending time with all members of her family.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I pay tribute to the 100th birthday of Golda Hengst. Ms. Hengst's entrepreneurship serves as a model for all Americans. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Golda Hengst all the best.

PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS
IMPLEMENTATION ACT OF 1997

SPEECH OF

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 22, 1997

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill, (H.R. 1534) to simplify and expedite access to the Federal courts for injured parties whose rights and privileges, secured by the U.S. Constitution, have been deprived by final actions of Federal agencies, or other Government officials or entities acting under color of State law; to prevent Federal courts from abstaining from exercising Federal jurisdiction in actions where no State law claim is alleged; to permit certification of unsettled State law questions that are essential to resolving Federal claims arising under the Constitution; and to clarify when Government action is sufficiently final to ripen certain Federal claims arising under the Constitution:

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Chairman, earlier this week, I voted in support of H.R. 1534, the Private Property Rights Implementation Act.

As with most measure this body considers, the bill is a first broad stroke at a very important problem—helping property owners resolve as quickly as possible issues related to land use. The bill is intended to afford property owners access to Federal courts when constitutionally protected rights have been taken or affected by government actions.

To be sure, the bill needs some tailoring of its provisions and, as it moves forward, I believe that in working with landowners, environmentalists, and local officials such tailoring will occur. But to vote down the bill is a mistake. It is a mistake. It is a mistake because reforms need to be made in this area of our law and we need to begin the process by which these reforms can be made. H.R. 1534 is that beginning.

I very much appreciate the concerns raised by local elected officials. Dee Hardison, the mayor of Torrance, the largest city in my district, outlined in a letter to me the effect city officials believe H.R. 1534 might have. But let me point out that local governments will have no new limits imposed on their ability to zone or regulate land use. Local agencies will still have at least two and up to three opportunities, including one involving elected officials, to resolve land use controversies before their decision will be defined as final.

At that point, under the bill, landowners will be afforded recourse to file private property takings cases in Federal court. Takings cases, or claims that a State or local government action reduced the value of property, take on average over 9 years of litigation before conclusion, yet it is important to point out that the legal basis for takings cases is the fifth amendment prohibition against taking private property without just compensation.

Because some landowners do not have the resources to defend their cases for so long and that the current situation causes unreasonable delay in resolving takings cases, the bill allows property owners to take their cases directly to Federal courts, thereby circumventing the more lengthy and often disadvantageous State courts or local resolution processes. Under current law, the cases cannot go

to Federal court until it is ripe, or local resolution processes and State court appeals have been exhausted. This bill shortens the period after which ripeness occurs.

Property use decisions are appropriately the province of local communities and States. H.R. 1534 is intended to affect a streamlining of a time-consuming process where landowners are denied a requested use but where the ultimate question is a constitutional one—has there been a taking. In my view, the opportunity to answer that question is appropriately accelerated under the bill and appropriately raised before the Federal courts.

I support H.R. 1534 and look forward to making such changes as necessary to ensure it protects property rights consistent with the Constitution.

THE LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY
NATIONAL WILDLIFE CORRIDOR

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 24, 1997

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, to say I am disappointed with the outcome of the Interior Appropriations Conference Report as it pertains to the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Corridor would be an understatement. The level of funding agreed to by the conferees does not in any way reflect the priority this is to the administration, to the House, and most importantly to the Nation.

The administration requested \$2.8 million for the wildlife corridor, which is truly a national treasure. I wholeheartedly supported this \$2.8 million request, and was successful here in the House in securing this amount. To see this amount reduced by \$1.9 million in conference reflects a true lack of vision not to mention a lack of commitment to preserving one of America's most priceless legacies.

By providing only \$900,000 for land acquisition, the conferees have ignored the importance of acting now to purchase lands from individuals willing to sell valuable wildlife habitat to the refuge. And let me point out that this is not a parochial issue. For years the Lower Rio Grande Valley NWR has ranked first among the Nation's wildlife refuges. It is famous for its wealth of birds. Half of all bird species in the United States are found here.

The unparalleled wildlife richness is in danger. Twenty-one species in the Valley are federally listed as endangered or threatened, and another 3 species are considered imperilled in Texas. More than 100 of the 465 bird species found in the Valley are considered by the Texas Partners in Flight program to be "species of special interest."

Funding for the conservation land acquisitions through the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has fallen short of the existing need for years. This year, the President and the Congress agreed in the Balanced Budget Agreement to provide an additional \$700 million for the LWCF. This was to be in addition to the \$166 million included in the President's request for fiscal year 1998. While the conferees have retained the total request, restrictions have been imposed that directly undercut funding for high-priority land acquisitions such as the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Diverting these already scarce funds to other uses, including

construction of a road and maintenance of buildings and other structures in refuges and parks, undercuts the entire purpose of the Land and Water Conservation Fund and reduces America's ability to conserve its vulnerable wildlife.

This initiative ranks among my highest priorities here in Congress. As I have this year, I will in the next session continue to do all I can to see that this refuge receives the attention and the funding it deserves. I hope my House colleagues will join with me in this deserving effort.

IN MEMORY OF DR. LUIS
FERNANDEZ-CAUBI

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 24, 1997

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to remember a great friend, outstanding lawyer, loving father, and a true patriot, Dr. Luis Fernandez-Caubi, who was born in Sagua la Grande, the son of a schoolteacher and a businessman. He was a lawyer and an ardent defender of human rights and those accused of anti-Castro activities by the Communist Government of Cuba.

After immigrating to the United States, his adoptive country, he continued the fight against Castro's tyranny, a fight that led him to the United Nations in 1988 and which continued in Spain, France, and other countries until his demise.

Dr. Fernandez-Caubi studied law at the University of Havana and began his law practice in 1948. He was admitted to the Florida bar after his completion of studies at the University of Florida and continued his practice until his death.

Dr. Fernandez-Caubi was a renowned author, winning journalism awards for his political commentary and books which included "Justicia y Terror", an indictment of the judicial system under communism and "Apuntes Sobre La Nacionalidad Cubana". He also hosted programs for radio and TV stations, including Radio Marti.

In the legal arena, his firm led a coalition of law firms in representing the elderly in the precedent setting Meek versus Martinez lawsuit to entitle the elderly in south Florida to receive their proportionate share of benefits from the government; his firm also advocated for human rights in the United Nations, which eventually led to the condemnation of Cuba for its human rights abuses. He represented numerous indigents, including the Mariel Cubans at the Terre Haute penitentiary, and won three Pro Bono Publico Service Awards. He participated in local politics and received the City of Miami Citizen of the Year Award in 1992, and the Sagua La Grande Favorite Son Distinction, among many honors.

Dr. Fernandez-Caubi was the father of 5 children and had 10 grandchildren, who were his pride and joy. He lived a full and rewarding life, and his legacy will live in the hearts of all who had the opportunity to be associated with him.

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
FOUNDING OF THE CONGRES-
SIONAL CAUCUS ON WOMEN'S IS-
SUES

HON. MICHAEL R. McNULTY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 24, 1997

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with Representative ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON and others in commemorating the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Congressional Caucus on Women's Issues.

Since it was first formed in 1977, the Caucus has had a tremendous impact on this body, and has played an important role in efforts to recognize that the diversity of America is our preeminent strength.

John Kennedy once said: "Effort and courage are not enough without purpose and direction." For the last 20 years the Caucus has given direction and purpose to issues of particular importance to women, families, and children.

In the last few years the Caucus has undergone some changes, but its role as the premier vehicle for raising and addressing the concerns of women has remained the same. The Caucus has shaped critical public policy such as equal pay, domestic violence, breast cancer research, family leave and access to quality health care.

While we have made significant advances in moving toward gender equity, progress has been slow and much more work needs to be done. If we hope to ensure equality, this Congress must continue the commitment necessary to remove the economic, political and educational barriers which hinder far too many women.

As the father of four daughters, I am well aware of the obstacles which women face and I am proud of the progress we've made in the last 20 years. Many of these changes are a direct result of the great work done by the Caucus—in serving as a catalyst in efforts to increase opportunity and ensure equality for all Americans.

In celebration of these achievements, I urge all Members of the House—and all my fellow Americans—to recognize the accomplishments of the Congressional Caucus on Women's Issues on the occasion of its 20th anniversary.

LIKE BETSY ROSS

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 24, 1997

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member highly commends to his colleagues the following poem by Miss Anne Louise Rezac, who is a third grader at East Butler Public School in my congressional district. The poem is entitled, "Like Betsy Ross." Miss Rezac's poem was chosen for publication by the Mile High Poetry Society of Denver, CO, in its anthology of poems titled "Muse."

LIKE BETSY ROSS

(By Anne Louise Rezac)

Betsy made a flag out of colors, red, white, blue,

Which sort of makes me feel, like I could do it too.

On Tuesdays I would stitch, two hours before noon,
and I would cut the blue part, in the month of June.

In the month of July, I had few done,
so I moved the stars on, one by one.
Then who came to visit me,
when I felt like a shrewd boss? Washington
and Morris, and John's uncle Ross.

They had some news to tell me, about our nation's flag.

I didn't want to dispute or begin to brag.
I knew their news was true, every single word.

Because when I was in school, that's the lesson I heard.

When the men had left, and months and days went by,

I had got the flag done! My oh my.

I went to pursue Washington, to tell him my good news,

and when I finally got there, he did not refuse.

George used the flag when he went near and far,

he even told the people what I used from the sewing jar.

UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO CELE-
BRATES ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 24, 1997

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 125th anniversary of the University of Toledo. Throughout its history and into the present, the University of Toledo has been cause for great pride and growth in our community, educating our citizens and providing brighter futures as a result. In its first 125 years, the University of Toledo has developed tremendously. UT is a nationally recognized public university with a wide range of undergraduate and graduate programs serving students across Ohio, all 50 States, and 98 countries. The University of Toledo is a leader in enrolling National Merit Scholars. In further testament to its success, it has grown from only one building on one campus to more than 60 on several campuses today.

The mission of the University of Toledo is manifold. UT strives for excellence in research and scholarship and is equally concerned with disseminating this knowledge through its academic programs. The University is highly committed to helping students achieve their highest potential by providing open access to the institution and challenging course work within its programs. Further the University of Toledo holds the promotion of pluralism, racial diversity, and gender representation as high priorities, making the University a place in which all types of people and viewpoints are valued. Renaissance writer John Heywood captured the spirit of UT's philosophy when he wrote, "The very spring and root of honesty and virtue lie in a good education." The University's guiding principles of freedom of expression and social justice make clear that UT proudly operates by the same belief system.

I am pleased to join the community to recognize, with gratitude, the University of Toledo's 125 years of excellence in education. I know my colleagues join me in wishing the University a happy 125th anniversary.