

"In addition to having fun," Lais continues, "you'll have the opportunity to learn about a variety of topics, including the history and ecology of the areas you travel. And, since Wilderness Inquiry strives to include a diverse group of participants—including persons with disabilities—it's likely that you'll learn a bit about other people—and yourself—in the process."

With the signing of a memorandum of understanding [MOU] between Wilderness Inquiry and the Bureau of Land Management, the National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Reclamation, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, more people will have the wealth of opportunities observed as our American experience and legacy. Wilderness Inquiry's expertise in service delivery will surely help the agencies achieve the goal of providing outdoor recreation programs and services that are accessible to all Americans. And Wilderness Inquiry's expertise is readily apparent: more than half of the people Wilderness Inquiry serve have physical, cognitive or emotional disabilities. Indeed, when a person with a disability calls Wilderness Inquiry and expresses a desire to experience the outdoors, Greg Lais and his talented staff figure out how to do it—not why it can't and shouldn't be done.

Wilderness Inquiry's program focus of integrating people from diverse backgrounds and ability levels has proven effective at fostering dignity, independence, and social integration. A lot of positive steps have already been taken. In 1991 Wilderness Inquiry completed a study on behalf of the National Council on Disability to determine the ability of people with disabilities to enjoy wilderness. That study came forward with a number of recommendations, many of which are currently being implemented. These includes suggestions and programs for training Federal employees, guidelines for policy implementation, and recommendations for service providers.

But much more remains to be done, and that is what this special agreement between Wilderness Inquiry and the Federal land managers is focused upon. It signals a Federal agency commitment to making our public lands accessible so that all Americans appreciate our rich natural and cultural heritage. The benefits to all Americans will be great. Customers will be better served and more satisfied, awareness of our great outdoors will be enhanced, and we will be on the road to achieving equal access to the comprehensive civil rights for persons with disabilities included in the Americans With Disabilities Act.

That is why I rise today to pay tribute to Greg Lais, a person who embodies the spirit of serving the public that makes this Minnesotans such a special person. His organization is doing good work, and for that I believe he deserves the respect and thanks of this House, this Congress, and the American people.

IN HONOR OF GRANT A. KNEISELY
ON HIS ATTAINMENT OF EAGLE
SCOUT

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 1997

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Grant Kniseley of Bay Village, OH, who will be honored for his attainment of Eagle Scout.

The attainment of Eagle Scout is a high and rare honor requiring years of dedication to self-improvement, hard work, and the community. Each Eagle Scout must earn 21 merit badges, 12 of which are required, including badges in: lifesaving; first aid; citizenship in the community; citizenship in the Nation; citizenship in the world; personal management of time and money; family life, environmental science; and camping.

In addition to acquiring and proving proficiency in those and other skills, an Eagle scout must hold leadership positions within the troop where he learns to earn the respect and hear the criticism of those he leads.

The Eagle Scout must live by the Scouting Law, which holds that he must be: trustworthy, loyal, brave, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, clean, and reverent.

And the Eagle Scout must complete an Eagle Project, which he must plan, finance, and evaluate on his own. It is no wonder that only 2 percent of all boys entering scouting achieve this rank.

My fellow colleagues, let us recognize and praise Grant for his achievement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 1997

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and unable to vote on rollcall vote Nos. 566 and 567. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall No. 566, on ordering the previous question to House Resolution 288, and "no" on rollcall No. 567, on agreeing to House Resolution 288. I ask unanimous consent to have this statement appear in the appropriate place in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

A TRIBUTE TO THOMAS J. MURRAY

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 1997

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, one of my more remarkable constituents, Thomas J. Murray of Walden, NY, is going to be honored by the Walden Rotary Club in a few weeks for a lifetime of devotion to his community and his family. I would like to take this opportunity to share his life story with our colleagues so that they can join us in saluting an outstanding American citizen.

Tom Murray was born on August 3, 1914, in the town of Newburgh on a family homestead

populated not only by his parents, but also by his three siblings, Dorothy, Anna, and Jack, by aunts, uncles, cousins, and other relatives. There were many adults interested in the future of young Tom who made certain the young man was raised on the straight and narrow. Tom was a student in the Newburgh school system and a graduate of Newburgh Free Academy.

In World War II, Tom was drafted into the service, and served in the 20th Air Force 58th Bomb Group as an engineer and a rear gunner on a B-29 aircraft. The 58th Bomb Group was one of the outstanding combat groups of the Second World War, and Tom was instrumental as an executive board member in keeping their annual reunion running smoothly for over 40 years. To honor those who served in the Army Air Corp, the group commissioned an original oil painting of the B-29 which now is on display at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, the Naval Academy at Annapolis, the Air Force Academy in Colorado, and at the Air and Space Museum right down the street from the Capitol.

In 1942, Tom married the former Helen Alice Romash, now deceased. Helen was from Walden, NY, about 7 miles west of Tom's home in the town of Newburgh. The young couple settled in Walden where Tom remains until this day, even after the passing of Helen a few years ago. Tom and Helen had two lovely children, Patricia and Dennis.

When World War II ended, Tom went to work for the DuPont Chemical Co. in Newburgh. In the mid-1960's, when DuPont moved their plant to South Carolina, Tom went along to help set up the new plant down south. However, he refused to give up his Walden home and returned to check his home and to visit family and friends quite often during his 1 year in South Carolina. Tom finally decided to come back home to Walden once and for all.

Tom is the personification of the community activist. A long time parishioner at Most Precious Blood Catholic Church, he served for many years as an usher and was an important component in the successful efforts to raise building funds for the parochial school.

Tom also served as chairman of the March of Dimes for the town of Montgomery, of which Walden is a part, and was in charge of the food distribution program for seniors and low-income families.

Tom has also been a mainstay in the Walden Volunteer Fire Department for many years. He has served as an on-the-line fireman and as a fire policeman.

He has served as a member of the planning committee, and thus played a major role in the planned growth of the village of Walden, a concept he has always supported.

Tom is known in his home community and throughout his home County of Orange as "Mr. Republican." He has never wavered in his support of Republican causes, and is known for his outspoken honesty. He recently celebrated his 30th anniversary as a Republican committeeman representing Election District No. 8, and from 1982 until he voluntarily stepped down in September of this year having served as chairman of the Republican Committee of the Town of Montgomery.

Mr. Speaker, I have always considered it an honor to consider Tom Murray as a friend. Throughout his remarkable career, he is an individual who can always be counted upon for honest answers, penetrating questions, and

genuine loyalty. The Walden Rotary Club tribute to Tom is in long overdue.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join in applauding an outstanding human being, Tom Murray of Walden, NY.

CONGRATULATIONS TO JAMES
AND ANNA MAE GAMBLE ON
THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 1997

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Gamble on their 50th wedding anniversary. While raising their six children, Mr. Gamble worked as a printer and Mrs. Gamble worked as a supervisor with the Home Energy Assistant Program. Currently, they are proud parents of 6 children and grandparents to 13 grandchildren.

Over the years, Mr. and Mrs. Gamble have been strong supporters of their community. Because of his solid presence in their neighborhood, Mr. Gamble is often spoken of as the "Mayor" of Jefferson Avenue. As a past president of the Sand T Block Association, Mrs. Gamble has spent inexhaustible hours contributing to efforts which have made that community close knit.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating them in passing this milestone in their lives.

UNRECOGNIZED SOUTHEAST ALASKA
NATIVE COMMUNITIES RECOGNITION ACT

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 1997

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Unrecognized Southeast Alaska Native Communities Recognition Act. This legislation provides long overdue recognition of five Native communities of Haines, Ketchikan, Petersburg, Tenakee, and Wrangell, which were wrongly denied the opportunity to establish and enroll in a Native corporation under the terms of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act [ANCSA]. The act also provides for a process to determine the lands or other appropriate compensation for the communities.

This legislation is intended to rectify an injustice that is over 25 years old. In 1971, ANCSA was enacted as the means to settle the aboriginal claims of Alaska Natives to their traditional homelands. The law provided for the establishment of Native Corporations, which were awarded land and compensation. Natives could enroll to 1 of 13 regional corporations and, within the geographic area of their regional corporation, to the village where they lived or had historic, culture, or familial ties.

However, Natives in the five southeast Alaska villages of Haines, Ketchikan, Petersburg, Tenakee, and Wrangell, were not recognized

in ANCSA, and therefore were denied the ability to form Native corporations. The legislative and historical record of ANCSA does not clearly provide a reason for leaving these villages out of the process of forming Native corporations.

A study ordered by Congress in 1993 examined why the five unrecognized communities were denied eligibility to form Native corporations. The study found that there was no meaningful distinction between the five communities and other communities in southeast Alaska recognized in ANCSA, and thus no justification for omission of the Native communities of Haines, Ketchikan, Petersburg, Tenakee, and Wrangell from eligibility to form urban or group corporations under ANCSA.

The Natives and their heirs in these communities deserve the chance to enroll to Native corporations. The legislation I am introducing simply grants recognition to these communities and enables them to form Native corporations. The bill also directs the Secretaries of Interior and of Agriculture to submit a report to Congress regarding lands or other compensation that should be provided to the new urban and group corporations that are established.

This is the first, but most important step to bringing the struggle of the Natives of five southeast Alaska communities to a close.

INTRODUCTION OF THE RHINO
AND TIGER PRODUCT LABELING
ACT: NOVEMBER 4, 1997

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 4, 1997

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce today, along with my colleague, GEORGE MILLER, the Rhino and Tiger Product Labeling Act of 1997.

This legislation will amend the landmark Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act of 1994, Public Law 103-391, to ensure that no person may import any product labeled or containing any species of rhinoceros or tiger into, or export any such product from, the United States.

Regrettably, all five species of both rhinoceros and tigers are critically endangered. For nearly 20 years they have been listed as endangered on both appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora [CITES] and our own Endangered Species Act.

In the case of tigers, their future is particularly bleak. In fact, it has been estimated that there are now less than 5,000 animals living in the wild, which is a 95-percent decline from the beginning of this century. There are fewer than 500 South China and Siberian tigers left in the world. Despite the enactment of Public Law 103-391 and the approval of several valuable tiger rescue grants financed by the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Fund, these irreplaceable species continue to be killed by poachers for their fur, as well as for other body parts. Shamans and practitioners of traditional medicine, especially the Chinese, value almost every part of the cat.

Tiger bone powders and tablets have been used for generations to combat pain, kidney, and liver problems, rheumatism, convulsions, and heart conditions.

Mr. Speaker, the population estimates for the rhinoceros are slightly better than tigers with 11,000 animals living in the wild. Nevertheless, there are several rhino species that are teetering on extinction. For instance, there are only 100 Javan and fewer than 500 Sumatran rhinos left on this planet.

While human population growth and competition for land have contributed to the destruction of rhinoceros habitat, the major cause of this species' decline has been the insatiable demand for products made from rhino horn. In Asia, rhinoceros horn obtained almost exclusively from illegal sources has been used for generations to treat headaches and fever in children.

By killing these flagship species, poachers are reaping huge financial rewards. In fact, Asian rhino horn is selling for up to \$60,000 per kilogram and tiger bones can sell for over \$1,400 a pound.

In order to save these species, we must eliminate the market for these products and stop consumers from purchasing medicines made from endangered rhinos and tigers. While it may be difficult to change traditional healing practices in China, Taiwan, and Vietnam, we can stop their importation into the United States.

I am told that on any given day, a consumer can visit a drug store or pharmacy in such cities as Chicago, New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Washington, DC, and purchase prepackaged medicines that clearly indicate they contain rhino and tiger parts. While some U.S. Customs agents will confiscate these products prior to importation, unfortunately it is virtually impossible to conclusively determine even in a laboratory that the active ingredients in the medicine originated from a rhinoceros or a tiger.

We can solve this problem by enacting the Rhino and Tiger Product Labeling Act. This legislation stipulates that if a label on a product says that it contains rhinoceros or tiger parts, then we can prevent it from coming into the United States by making the legal presumption, without any further scientific tests or analysis, that it violates our trade laws. In essence, it is a Truth in Labeling for these endangered species and if manufacturers choose to try to sell their medicines without a reference to rhinos or tigers, then consumers are not likely to purchase them.

Mr. Speaker, if there is any hope of saving rhinoceros or tigers for future generations, then we must stop the sale of products containing these animals and 1998 is the year of the tiger according to the Chinese calendar, and passage of this bill would be an effective way to celebrate this occasion.

I would urge my colleagues to join with me in this vital effort by cosponsoring the Rhino and Tiger Product Labeling Act of 1997. I would also like to thank the World Wildlife Fund and Traffic U.S.A. for their outstanding leadership in this issue and for dramatizing the plight of rhinos and tigers. We must work to ensure that the last rhino and tiger is not killed on our watch.