

formed, has been invaluable. The commission was formed and public dialog broke down concerning the marine sanctuary process, and Doug helped facilitate a dialog in order to resolve important differences and issues by consensus. His ability to work with individuals with differing perspectives in a cooperative and resourceful manner is a true asset to the commission.

Doug has a notable background and experience when it comes to the environment. He joined the Sierra Club in 1967, and served as their Northwest field representative from 1973 to 1977. In 1980 they named him national conservation director of the Sierra Club, and in 1988 he became the organization's associate executive director. In 1990, he left the Sierra Club to direct the San Juan Community Theater in Friday Harbor, WA. Currently, Doug is the executive director of Friends of the San Juans.

Doug is in good company in receiving this award. Previous recipients include such distinguished persons as Jacques Cousteau and Wallace Stegner.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to recognize Doug Scott, a Washington State resident, before the U.S. House of Representatives, and to congratulate him on receiving the John Muir Award.

CONGRATULATIONS, MAYOR
CARDELL COOPER AND THE
WORKERS OF EAST ORANGE

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 1997

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, November 16, the Civic Service Committee of Christ Church will honor the workers of East Orange, NJ, in my congressional district and will also bid a fond farewell to the former major of East Orange, Cardell Cooper, and his family.

It is indeed fitting that we offer our appreciation to the hardworking men and women who serve the city of East Orange. These unsung heroes are a dedicated group of professionals who strive each and every day to deliver outstanding service to the residents of the city they serve. Positive changes are occurring in East Orange because of their efforts.

I am pleased to have the opportunity to honor the workers of East Orange as well as my good friend Cardell Cooper, whom I have long admired and respected. His life has been an inspiring success story of one who rose from humble beginnings, as one of 13 brothers, to move ahead with steadfast determination to reach for the stars.

His many accomplishments include holding positions as business administrator of Irvington; freeholder of Essex County, one of the most populous counties in the State of New Jersey; Essex County Administrator and major of East Orange. His crowning achievement is that he has now been nominated by President Clinton to serve in one of the highest ranking positions at the Department of Environmental Protection.

As the representative of the 10th Congressional District, I have had the pleasure of working with Cardell Cooper on many issues and have found him to be a dedicated public

service with tremendous energy and commitment.

Among his peers throughout the Nation, Cardell Cooper has gained a reputation as an outstanding public official. He is widely respected by members of the National Association of Counties, the National League of Cities, the Conference of Mayors and other national civic and professional organizations to which he belongs.

I know that my colleagues here in the House of Representatives join me in wishing the very best to Cardell Cooper, his devoted wife Sandy, and their children as they move on to exciting new challenges. Let us also say a special thank you to the workers of the city of East Orange for a job well done.

RECOGNITION OF STAN AND
JETTA ROBERTS AS NORTHEAST
EL PASO FAMILY OF THE YEAR
FOR 1997

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 1997

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize Stan and Jetta Roberts as the Northeast El Paso Family of the Year for 1997. Since first arriving in El Paso more than 42 years ago, Stan and Jetta have contributed to the development of the El Paso community in every imaginable way. The Roberts are members of the 7th Ward of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints where they have worshiped and prayed with their four children Mike, Jetta Lynn, Beverly, and Stan and their seven grandchildren.

After 28 years in the Army, Stan decided to serve his county and his community in another way—he and his father organized, with others, the Northeast El Paso Civic Association to work toward the improvement of the Northeast area and the city of El Paso.

In addition to being a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Local 8919, Stan is a member of the Cooties a life member of the Disabled American Veterans Chapter 187, American Legion, Association of the United States Army, NAUS, Moose Lodge No. 554, American Association of Retired Persons, and the Northeast El Paso Civic Association. Stan was recently re-elected to his fourth term on the El Paso City Council, and has been the alternate mayor pro tempore for the past 2 years.

Throughout their lives, Jetta has always been supportive of Stan's endeavors throughout his Army career and civilian life. Jetta has been Stan's campaign manager for the last three elections. Jetta is a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Woman's Auxiliary, life member of the Disabled American Veterans Women's Auxiliary, and is currently serving her second term as El Paso representative on the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature in Austin, TX and is an alternate on the National Silver-Haired Legislature in Washington, DC. Jetta was the Relief Society president for 5 years and was also an employment specialist for 2 years helping people on welfare find jobs.

The outstanding accomplishments of both Stan and Jetta Roberts have been many and they are both committed to helping and serving their community whenever they can. I've

had the opportunity to work with both Stan and Jetta while trying to improve our communities. We can all learn from the sacrifices they have made to benefit others and both shine as bright as our star on the mountain.

MOVING FORWARD FOR
MONTANANS

HON. RICK HILL

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 1997

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, today I join with my Montana colleague, U.S. Senator CONRAD BURNS, in introducing much needed legislation which will help complete the Gallatin Land Consolidation Act. As Congress completes its business in the last hours of this session, it is important to let Montanans know that its congressional delegation is committed to resolving this situation.

The proposed land exchange agreement between Big Sky Lumber and the U.S. Forest Service is a well-intentioned proposal that I support. However, like all general agreements, there are always specific concerns to address. As these issues remain pending, this legislation will show that Congress is committed to completing the exchange and eliminating the uncertainties that Big Sky Lumber, other businesses, and many landowners may have.

For example, the protection of the Taylors Fork is extremely important since it provides a critical migration corridor for wildlife. Many of the area's landowners face uncertain futures and deserve to know that the Montana delegation will act on their behalf to complete the exchange. Our legislation moves forward on meeting landowner's goals and protecting the environment. Other issues that need resolution, such as access concerns in the Bridger-Bangtail area and small business timber set asides, will also be advanced by this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, one major difference in my legislation is a provision guaranteeing that any land which will be exchanged to the Federal Government must continue to maintain and maximize historical recreational access and use. This is a very important item that I will continue to champion for Montanans as this process moves forward.

This bill provides the initial legislative phase for eventual completion of the Gallatin Land Consolidation Act. There are many details that need to be included, but this legislation will hopefully satisfy the December 31 deadline under the current option. Moreover, this bill will present a forum for Montanans to begin to comment on the details of the package.

Mr. Speaker, this is important to my home State of Montana. I look forward to moving ahead with the rest of the Montana delegation in completing the exchange in the next session of Congress.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB RILEY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 1997

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, for medical reasons, I was absent during the following rollcall

votes. Had I been present, I would have been recorded in the following manner.

On rollcall No. 622, on a motion to table a measure, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall No. 623, a bill to provide for increased international broadcasting activities to China, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall No. 624, a bill to establish a program to provide assistance for programs of credit and other assistance for microenterprises in developing countries, and for other purposes, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall No. 625, expressing the sense of Congress with respect to the discrimination by the German Government against members of minority religious groups, I would have voted "nay."

On rollcall No. 626, expressing the sense of Congress that the Government should fully participate in EXPO 2000 in the year 2000, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall No. 627, a bill to amend the Illegal Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall No. 628, a bill providing for consideration of certain resolutions in preparation for the adjournment of the first session, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall No. 629, a bill concerning the statutes of Amtrak, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall No. 630, on agreeing to the rule, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall No. 631, on agreeing to the conference report for Foreign Operations, I would have voted "nay."

On rollcall No. 632, on agreeing to the resolution House Resolution 301, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall No. 633, on ordering the previous question, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall No. 634, on agreeing to the resolution House Resolution 326, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall No. 635, a bill providing for the consideration of the bill H.R. 867, and the Senate amendment thereto, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall No. 636, a rule to consider the Commerce, State, Justice Appropriations Act, H.R. 2267, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall No. 637, passage of House Concurrent Resolution 137, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall No. 638, an adjournment resolution, Senate Concurrent Resolution 68, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall No. 639, a motion of recommit H.R. 2267, I would have voted "nay."

On rollcall No. 640, passage of H.R. 2267, I would have voted "aye."

TRIBUTE TO FORMER NEW HAVEN MAYOR BIAGIO DI LIETO

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 1997

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, tonight, in New Haven, CT, Biagio DiLiето will join with close friends and family to celebrate his 75th birthday. I have respected and admired Ben DiLiето for years, and am grateful for the opportunity to recognize a man who has dedicated his life to the city of New Haven.

Ben DiLiето began his public career in 1952. Serving as a police officer and later as police

chief, Ben quickly learned how to effectively address the needs of the city's residents. He interacted with the community and embraced its diversity. Ben was determined to make local government work for average citizens by addressing their needs on a personal level. Residents of New Haven came to know Ben DiLiето as a person who cared and would eagerly roll up his sleeves when hard work needed to be done. Ben earned the trust of New Haven's citizens and they elected him mayor in 1979.

Mayor DiLiето served for five consecutive terms. During those years, he was dedicated to understanding and meeting the needs of his constituents, particularly those in the greatest need. Mayor DiLiето worked diligently to ensure funding for social service programs that benefited children, elderly, and the disabled. He fought to obtain funding for emergency services and education. He championed the interests of people with real needs and sought real solutions. Indeed, it is difficult to measure the magnitude of Ben DiLiето's contributions to the city of New Haven, for he has played such a large role in our community. Ben DiLiето truly changed the face of our city.

On a personal note, Ben has always been a friend who is reliable and supportive, genuine and sincere. His commitment and diligence are the cornerstone of strong and effective local government, and his belief in public service has inspired me time and time again.

It is with great pleasure that I commend Ben DiLiето for a lifetime of achievement and service. I join his wife Rose, his family, and his many friends in wishing Ben a very happy 75th birthday. Ben truly embodies the best New Haven politics has to offer, and it is my deepest hope that we will have the benefit of his wisdom and kindness for many years to come.

THE SLAMMING PREVENTION AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT OF 1997

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 13, 1997

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce H.R. 3050, the Slamming Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 1997 to protect the American public from an unfair, unscrupulous and anticonsumer practice known as slamming. The perpetrators of this type of rascality switch a consumer's choice of long distance or local telephone service providers to their own service without the consumer's knowledge or consent. With this legislation, consumers finally will be able to fight back against slammers.

The measure will allow consumers to receive a full refund for any charges or shield them from liabilities incurred as a result of slamming. Consumers will be able to recover up to three times their actual damages for intentional violations, in addition to the monetary penalties this bill imposes upon any person or telephone carrier and their agents who slam. Additionally, the legislation sets a deadline for the Federal Communications Commission [FCC] and the Federal Trade Commission [FTC] to set rules that will protect consumers from slamming. The FCC rules will ensure that

any consumer switch of carrier is verified, while the FTC rules will prohibit unfair and deceptive acts and practices used in connection with switching a consumer's choice of service.

Slamming is a spreading epidemic. It is the single largest source of consumer complaints at the FCC. In 1995 alone, slamming represented more than a third of the complaints consumers registered at the FCC's Common Carrier Bureau. The number of slamming complaints processed by the FCC has nearly doubled from 1995 to 1997. Moreover, the number of slamming complaints processed by the FCC to date in this calendar year, 16,440, represent nearly half of all the complaints, 34,557, that have been processed by the agency this year.

The telephone industry estimates that approximately 2 million slamming incidents occur each year in the United States, with the bulk of these slams undetected or unreported by consumers. And there is no doubt these numbers will continue to grow unless adequate protections are put in place.

The current regulations against slamming are simply inadequate. There is little incentive for consumers to bring a lawsuit or file a complaint with the FCC. The higher phone bills borne by slammed consumers often pales in comparison to the cost of suing for recovery. This bill will correct that anomaly.

Moreover, under the current rules, if a consumer files a complaint with the FCC, he or she is only entitled to receive the difference between what was paid to the slammer and what would have been paid to the authorized carrier. In other words, lengthy involvement in an administrative proceeding yields too little, too late.

The FCC has been ineffective in protecting consumers from slammers. It has been nearly 2 years since the passage of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, and the agency still has not promulgated effective rules to protect consumers.

Despite the growing problem, the FCC has settled disputes with only a handful of slammers resulting in injunctions and fines. While these fines were paid into the U.S. Treasury, the consumer who was defrauded never received a dime.

The people in my home State of Michigan are particularly hard hit by slammers. Michigan ranks eighth overall in the number of State and Federal slamming complaints. But slamming respects no State lines.

Slammers prey upon victims of all kinds, although minorities and non-English speaking consumers are frequent targets. These slammers act in nefarious ways: sign here and you will be eligible for valuable and exciting prizes. The only thing valuable and exciting accrues to the slammer. The consumer unwittingly authorizes a change in their telephone carrier while under the impression that he or she has simply entered a contest. Or, the consumer receives a welcome package or other promotional mailing at home that says if you do not sign here or return the enclosed card, your service will be switched. Or telemarketing firms, driven by commissions, forge consumer authorizations or develop even wilder schemes to skim cash from the American public.

Mr. Speaker, we need tougher laws against slamming. The American public should have the tools to fight back against these bad actors. The Slamming Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 1997 will provide those tools.