

of them belonged to the great human family. All of us have been wounded by those losses, although we may not realize it. We are all related to one another—and the King of Jordan brought that home to us in a powerful way.

The time has come for the human family to celebrate its unity, its diversity, its tremendous gifts, its abilities in many fields, its infinite capacities for compassion and creativity. Although this is an age of terrible tragedies and immense sufferings, it is also an age of unprecedented strides in many areas.

I believe we should consider "A Day of Celebration for Humanity"—an annual festival to remind us of the marvelous capacities of human beings.

There are many acts of kindness, many outpourings of love and devotion, many works of art emerging from the minds and souls of those who share the DNA molecules that make us human.

Let us salute one another, let us bow down as the King of Jordan did to comfort the afflicted ones among us, let us blow horns around the world, let us dance and be grateful for all the blessings we have, for the hopes we have, for the signs of love we can see everywhere if we open our eyes.

In the midst of our celebration, we will not forget that we have to help one another, care for one another, extend our hands to those who need food and shelter and encouragement. We will take everyone into the circle of humanity—and leave no one out.

Each year—perhaps on New Year's Day—there should be a 24-hour, worldwide remembrance of the achievements of people around the Earth. The resources of the Information Age are available now to bring together all of us in that commemoration.

Artists, musicians, film producers, writers, dancers, singers and composers, sculptors and painters, television and radio communicators, could be asked to give their services for a "Festival of the Human Family."

It could be organized by a Committee for Humanity, formed by representatives of the arts and sciences. Jacques Cousteau, the oceanographer; Yehudi Menuhin, the violinist; King Hussein of Jordan; and Maya Angelou, the poet, might be asked to serve as honorary chairpersons.

The committee could include leaders from all countries represented at the United Nations, journalists and educators from every continent, legislators and judges, business executives, presidents of trade unions, philosophers and members of all religions, children of all ages, women from many backgrounds, and Nobel Prize winners. Its headquarters might be in Geneva, where many international organizations have offices.

On the day of celebration, the creative attainments and highest qualities of compassion and courage demonstrated by human beings would be presented in global broadcasts—perhaps with introductory statements by George Lucas and Steven Spielberg, visionary film producers, and Arthur Clarke, author of "2001," on their hopes for humanity in the coming century.

On that day, the noblest aspirations of human beings would be hailed. The finest works of the human spirit would shine around the world. The day would be an occasion of renewed confidence for every human person on this planet—every member of the huge family which now includes millions of mysterious beings. It would depict the crises through which humanity has passed in its epic journey from the seas to the stars. All the peaks of human experience would be recognized and acclaimed.

The day might end with the singing of the "Ode to Joy" which concludes Beethoven's Ninth Symphony—with choirs from every

nation, with voices being heard from every part of the beautiful planet on which humanity arose.

Such a day could give us new ways of seeing that Thomas Merton was right when he said: "It is a glorious destiny to be a human being."

We were created with divine sparks that cannot be extinguished. We were shaped by a mind which gave us a sense of belonging to the universe. With the creative power shared with us by that loving mind, we can find the ways out of our tremendous problems and overcome the dangers that beset us in this time of testing.

In his inaugural address in January of this year, President Clinton urged us to remember that the greatest progress we have yet to make is in the human heart. He referred to Martin Luther King's high dream of human equality and he declared: "King's dream was the American dream. His quest is our quest."

King's vision was more than an American vision. It was a vision for the whole human family. It is time to revive that vision—and to join with people everywhere to show what can be done by the members of that awesome stream of people moving forward together.

I urge the U.S. Congress to adopt a non-partisan resolution calling for "A Day of Celebration" and urging legislators and other leaders of all nations to join Americans in making that day a worldwide day for human unity. I urge the president and the executives of all countries to give their support to that proposal.

The time has come to take a giant step for humanity!

AUTHORIZING A CALIFORNIA URBAN ENVIRONMENTAL RE- SEARCH CENTER

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 1997

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, today I am reintroducing legislation to authorize the Environmental Protection Agency [EPA] to establish a California Urban Environmental Research and Education Center [CUEREC].

I am honored to be joined in this effort by nine California colleagues: Mr. DELLUMS, Mr. MATSUI, Mr. GEORGE MILLER, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. TORRES, Mr. BROWN, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. BERMAN, and Mr. FILNER.

Legislation to authorize EPA research programs was unfortunately not acted upon in the last Congress. However, CUEREC did receive a line item in the 1995 Department of VA, HUD and independent agencies appropriations bill to cover start-up costs. This line item has allowed CUEREC to begin its first year of operation and the Center was dedicated on October 21, 1994 at a tree planting ceremony on the Cal State Hayward campus.

The bill requests \$4.5 million for fiscal year 1998 because CUEREC is mandated to work with all 22 California State Universities in its second year of operation and because CUEREC will need this level of support to carry out the activities set out for it in the legislation.

Currently, CUEREC is in the process of linking California's major university system—the Cal State University [CSU] campuses, the University of California [UC] campuses, as well as private universities and colleges—to deal with the employment and environmental challenges

of California's military base closures and defense conversion. Among other activities CUEREC will: help remove market barriers for small environmental business enterprise development; help in military base conversion and utilization focused on increasing sustainable economic development and job creation throughout California; encourage the transfer of government developed and/or sponsored environmental technology to the private sector while working closely with such laboratories as Lawrence Livermore, Sandia, and Lawrence-Berkeley; encourage the funding of viable environmental projects throughout California; assist women and minority owned small businesses in complying with local, state, and federal environmental regulations and taking advantage of opportunities in sustainable economic development; avoid duplication in environmental research and education programs by developing an on-line data base of such activities available to all California universities and colleges; help coordinate Cal State and UC environmental applied research and education programs; and advise local, state, and federal officials on the economic and environmental implications of development programs throughout California.

Prior to CUEREC, no EPA sponsored research center had been established in California. Seventeen such EPA sponsored research centers have already been established in other states. CUEREC would be the first to focus on urban environmental policy, base closures, and defense conversion environmental problems. CUEREC would also be the first to include all of the universities and colleges in a single state.

Both Senators were very supportive of the legislation last year. CUEREC is a unique program, providing many important benefits for California and a cost effective model university based program for the nation and I urge my California colleagues to support it.

WOMEN'S HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 1997

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, next year, women's high school basketball in the Sixth District of North Carolina should be extremely interesting. The reason being that two of the State champions from this year will play in the same conference. Ledford High School, located just outside Thomasville, NC, and High Point Central High School in High Point, NC, secured the championships in the 2-A and 3-A divisions of the State playoffs respectively.

The end of March brought the State 2-A season to a close. Ledford High School, in an impressive victory over St. Pauls, captured the State 2-A championship. This is only the second championship victory in the school's history.

After an impressive 29-2 season, the Ledford Panthers faced the Saint Pauls Bulldogs (28-2) in the season finale. Both teams were anxious to take home the victory and the game proved to be a challenge for all those involved. Head coach John Ralls, with the assistance of Joe Davis and Allen Patterson led the Panthers to a 59-57 come-from-behind

victory on March 22. Principal Max Cole and Athletic Director Gary Hinkle also provided the team with support and encouragement in their impressive victory.

Junior Stacey Hinkle, second-time MVP, proved to be an integral part of the team with 22 points. Leslie Thomas also helped the Panthers by scoring 8 of the 13 bench points scored during the game. Two players, Laurie Smith and Amanda Reece, braved recent surgery worries in order to play in the championship game. Stephanie Sharp, Lauren Craven, Misty Sharp, Brooke Embler, Kristin Berrier, Whitney Patterson, Amy Wells, Amanda Besaw, and Julie Reece all aided in Ledford's successful season and victory against Saint Pauls.

A championship is a great accomplishment but, for High Point Central High School, this 3-A basketball State title means so much more. During the season, the women's basketball team lost more games than the previous 3 years combined. However, the team pulled together to win the one game that meant the very most. Coach Kenny Carter was quoted in the High Point Enterprise explaining the journey that his team has faced, "Early in the year I didn't know if they believed everything that I said could happen." The team succeeded in allowing all 13 members of the team to make a basket during the course of the game. The most memorable shot was made in the closing 3.4 seconds of the game by Tameika McRae which clinched the 66-64 victory.

The score was close for the entire game with the half time score being tied at 21. Supreme efforts were made by all of the players of the team, the Most Valuable Player, Mandy Hall, Katie Copeland, Lee Culp, Sherelle Gladney, Ashley Hedgecock, Brendle Howard, Staci Murray, Kaneica Obie, Elizabeth Redpath, Jenni Tinsley, Mandi Tinsley, and Katie Yoemans, to secure the victory of the Bisons. The coaches of this championship team are Kenny Carter, Jetanna McClain, Scotti Carter, and Steve Martin who have help from the managers Michelle McCallum and Charita Clark and the trainers Brandy Owen and Steven Goodrich. Overseeing this group are athletic director Gary Whitman, statistician Kim Liptrap, and principal Bill Collins.

These two supreme teams will have a difficult year ahead of them as they are forced to play each other in the same conference. On behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, we congratulate these teams for winning the women's State 2-A and 3-A basketball championships.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 1997

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I was necessarily absent during rollcall vote 110. If present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall 110.

WARM WELCOME TO EAST JESSAMINE MIDDLE SCHOOL

HON. SCOTTY BAESLER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 1997

Mr. BAESLER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to welcome the eighth-grade class from East Jessamine Middle School. These students traveled from Nicholasville, KY to explore the Capital of the United States. This city is alive with history, educational adventures, and stunning monuments. I am proud that these eighth graders are taking advantage of the opportunity to visit Washington, DC. I am sure that many fond memories will be created. I wish these outstanding young men and women the best for a bright and successful future.

THE POTOMAC—AN ENDANGERED RIVER

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 1997

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, this morning the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus held its monthly information briefing. This morning's briefing was on fishing in the Washington, DC area. Each month these breakfasts focus on different aspects of wildlife conservation. This morning's breakfast hit home with many of the Members because it highlighted the area where many of us live and fish. I have attached an article written by Charles Verharen that highlights the threats to the Potomac fishery. I hope that my colleagues will read this article and work to restore and protect our local fishery.

THE POTOMAC—AN ENDANGERED RIVER?

(By Charles C. Verharen)

Imagine standing at the base of Little Falls on a brilliant spring day on the Potomac, just above Chain Bridge in Washington, D.C. Flocks of black cormorants stream north. Thousands of silver and black hickory shad fight their way up the surging rapids. Sparkling emerald water breaks against black granite. This wilderness-like setting in the Capital's city limits takes your breath away—until you look downstream.

Just below the falls what looks like gusher of Texas crude oil jets into the crystalline water. A hundred yards below the falls, green and black merge into dismal gray. A motorist on Chain Bridge can look upstream and see a Potomac that's in "better shape today than it has been in a century," according to Bill Matuszeski, director of the Chesapeake Bay Program (Post, 4/17/97, D8).

That same motorist can look downstream and see a Potomac that deserves its place on the list of America's endangered rivers. Beth Norcross, a director of the American Rivers group that maintains the list, admits that the "Potomac is in fabulous shape." Maybe she doesn't know about the black filth surging into the Potomac at Little Falls. She thinks the primary threat is bacteria-laden run-off from poultry farms in West Virginia. The U.S. and West Virginia Departments of Agriculture acknowledge the problem as well.

In an ironic twist of fate, bacteria are the indirect cause of the gout of black ooze. A by-product of the Washington Aqueduct

water treatment plant, the black goo is sediment from the plant's holding basins, containing such chemicals as aluminum silicate, copper, chlorine, and heavy metals from Potomac run-off.

The treatment plant discharges its waste into the Potomac above and below Little Falls. On some days Little Falls creek above the falls runs milky white like a glacial stream with aluminum silicate discharge from Washington Aqueduct. On the other days it runs a bright fluorescent green with copper silicate discharge.

Fishermen on the Potomac downstream of the falls report that discharges from the treatment plant have increased since the EPA found evidence of contamination of drinking water in the Washington area last year. They claim that the discharge endangers the spawning fish. The fish simply disappear during the discharge period.

Thomas P. Jacobus, chief of the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers division that runs the Washington Aqueduct, said he's discharging heavily in the period from March to June to help the spawning fish. He said he thought the spawning season was from June through August.

When he learned that the spawning season is on right now, he said he couldn't stop the discharge in any event. His regulatory agencies, including the Environmental Protection Association, forbid discharge during summer's typically low river flow to protect fish habitats.

The American Rivers group, the EPA, and the Army Corp of Engineers need to get together with the Atlantic Marine Fisheries Commission and sport fishing associations to settle on a water treatment discharge schedule that will protect the spawning fish.

And politicians and residents of the Washington area need to figure out a way to purify Potomac water without polluting it.

REMARKS BY BENJAMIN MEED ON THE OCCASION OF THE DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY IN THE U.S. CAPITOL ROTUNDA

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 1997

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, today at a most moving ceremony in the Rotunda of the U.S. Capitol, Members of Congress, members of the Diplomatic Corps, representatives of the Executive and Judicial branches, and hundreds of survivors of the Holocaust and their friends gathered to commemorate the National Days of Remembrance.

The theme of this year's Days of Remembrance commemoration was "From Holocaust to New Life." This remarkable ceremony celebrated the lives and legacy of those who survived those darkest days, triumphed with hope and compassion. One of those survivors was my dear friend, Benjamin Meed, who serves as chairman of the Days of Remembrance Committee. Ben has dedicated his life to keeping the lessons and memories of the Holocaust alive. I encourage my colleagues to read Benjamin Meed's outstanding remarks from today's ceremony.

Justice Scalia, distinguished Ambassadors, Members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives, fellow survivors, ladies and gentleman:

When we, survivors of the Holocaust, see the American flag and the flag of the United