

Development. He also served as Executive Director of the Allegheny County Industrial, Hospital and Higher Education Authorities.

Steve returned to Northeastern Pennsylvania to become the President/CEO of the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Business and Industry and its affiliates, the Greater Wilkes-Barre Industrial Fund and the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce. He is also a member of the Luzerne County Convention Center Authority, the Pennsylvania Economic Development Association, the American Chamber of Commerce Executives, and the Industrial Development Research Council.

Steve serves on the board of the Economic Development Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania, the United Way of Wyoming Valley, the Ethics Institute, Blue Cross of Northeastern Pennsylvania, and the Downtown Task Force of Wilkes-Barre. Steve also serves on the board of the Earth Conservancy, a non-profit, charitable organization that is restoring, preserving, and developing more than 17,000 acres of land throughout Luzerne County previously owned by a bankrupt coal company. He also played an important role in helping to win an American Heritage River designation for the Upper Susquehanna-Lackawanna Watershed.

I have worked closely with Steve on countless projects to improve the quality of life for Northeastern Pennsylvania. Despite the enormity of the challenges he has faced on complex projects such as restoring the former Pomeroy's building in downtown Wilkes-Barre, creating a new sports area/convention center, and the day-to-day work of attracting new industries to our area, Steve has always shown the utmost devotion to the community. He leads his organization with the highest level of professionalism.

Over the past several years, I have enjoyed working with Steve Barrouk to promote economic development in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Steve's efforts have literally helped create thousands of jobs in the Wyoming Valley. I am pleased to join Leadership Wilkes-Barre in thanking Steve Barrouk for his efforts. Luzerne County will undoubtedly benefit from his further labors in the years ahead.

ANIMAL CRUELTY LEGISLATION

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 24, 1999

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, criminals should not profit from illegal acts. That is why I introduced H.R. 1887 last week that will ban illegal, disgusting acts that are occurring nationwide.

People around the country are making "crush videos." These videos feature women crushing small animals with their feet while wearing spiked heals. The videos are sold nationwide to people who enjoy this type of so-called "foot fetish." and sellers of the video are making millions of dollars.

The acts of animals cruelty featured in the video are illegal under state law. However, according to District Attorney Michael Bradbury of Ventura County, California, it is difficult to prosecute these acts under state animal cruelty laws. First, a District Attorney must iden-

tify the individual in the video. This is a difficult task given the fact that most of the time, only the actress' legs are shown. Second, it is difficult to prove that the act featured in the video occurred within the statute of limitations. Third, local animal cruelty laws do not prohibit the production, sale, or possession of the video. There are also no federal laws that could be used to prosecute the individuals.

Sick criminals are taking advantage of the loopholes in the local law and the lack of federal law on animal cruelty videos. This is a serious problem. Thousands of these videos are being sold. Thousands of dollars are being made. By not closing these loopholes and allowing this sick behavior, we are encouraging people to profit from violating the state animal cruelty laws. This must be stopped!

H.R. 1887 will put a stop to this offensive behavior. This legislation is narrowly tailored to prohibit the creation, sale or possession of a depiction of animal cruelty in interstate commerce for commercial gain. H.R. 1887 does not preempt state laws on animal cruelty. Rather, it incorporates the animal cruelty law of the state where the offense occurs.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in pursuing this legislation which will put an end to profiting from these disgusting criminal acts. Please contact Wendy Wiseman of my staff at 5-5811 to cosponsor H.R. 1887.

WOMEN'S DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF MONMOUTH COUNTY PAYS TRIBUTE TO CHAIRMAN VICTOR V. SCUDIERY

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 24, 1999

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, May 23, the Women's Democratic Club of Monmouth County, NJ, will pay tribute to Mr. Victor V. Scudery, who for the past 10 years has served as the Monmouth County Democratic Chairman.

A native of Newark, NJ, Mr. Scudery graduated from Seton Hall University. He served his country in the U.S. Army in both active and reserve duty. Since then, he has achieved the status of one of our most prominent citizens in the worlds of business and politics and in the civic life of our community. He is the president of Interstate Electronics in Hazlet and also oversees several other business ventures in New Jersey and Florida. But it is probably in his capacity as the Monmouth County Democratic Chairman that Vic Scudery is best known.

As if his chairmanship didn't keep him busy enough, Vic Scudery devotes considerable time to many worthwhile causes. He serves on the boards of seven community organizations, and his energy, devotion and sincere commitment to giving something back to his community is felt in all of the endeavors that he is involved with. He is the chairman of the Bayshore Senior Day Center Board of Advisors, a lifeline to many area senior citizens, providing meals, companionship and daily activities. As chairman of the Buck Smith Memorial Foundation, he has overseen the granting of scholarships to deserving students. The Bayshore Hospital Health Care Center selected Mr. Scudery as chairman of the Board

of Trustees, where he is responsible for land acquisition and construction of facilities.

In recognition of all his hard work and generosity—and in spite of his natural sense of modesty—Vic Scudery has received countless honors from civic and charitable organizations throughout New Jersey, including the Bayshore Senior Center, Brookdale College, Knights of Columbus, Society of St. Anthony of Padua, the NAACP, and various municipal and Democratic organizations.

On this occasion, Mr. Speaker, I am honored to join with the Women's Democratic Club of Monmouth County, and the many friends of Victor Scudery, in paying tribute to a great chairman and one of our most distinguished citizens.

COMMEMORATING THE LEADERSHIP OF EAST SIDE SCOUTMASTER DAN NELSON

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 24, 1999

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, we must recognize outstanding efforts by individuals that are continuing to set aside private lands for the general welfare of today's youth and future generations.

Dan K. Nelson of St. Paul, a neighbor of mine back home, was recently awarded the Boy Scouts of America's "William T. Hornaday Gold Medal" award. The award is surely a positive recognition, but I know that Dan Nelson's real joy is the knowledge that this special landscape along the St. Croix River will be a legacy for future generations.

Thanks Dan and congratulations on your good work. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit for the RECORD an article from the May 17, 1999 East Side Review outlining Dan Nelson's life long vocation and profession which has been inspired by experiences and lessons learned as a Boy Scout.

[From the East Side Review, May 17, 1999]

EAST SIDE BOY SCOUT LEADER WINS

NATIONAL AWARD

(By Scott Nichols)

The developer in possession of the 1,100 acres adjacent to the St. Croix River wanted to turn the property into a golf course community boasting more than 200 homes.

Through the persistence of East Side trial lawyer, resident and assistant Scoutmaster Dan Nelson, the developer never got his chance.

Nelson joined in the neighborhood push for the sale of the property. Together the group was successful, eventually, in coming up with the developer's price tag of \$1.1 million, through private donations and appeals for funds to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

It's for continued effort like that that the Boy Scouts of America Indianhead Council announced April 12 that Nelson has been awarded what is perhaps the most prestigious award in all of scouting, the William T. Hornaday Gold Medal.

"Rare is not an appropriate term (for the award). They are very, very extremely rare," says Ron Phillippe, chief executive of the Indianhead Council.

The award is given out to adult Scouters who render a distinctive and unusual service to natural resources conservation over an extended period.

According to Phillippe, less than 100 of these awards have been given out nationally since 1910, the birth of scouting.

"I've been in this business for 41 plus years, and I only recall in my entire career three or four ever given out," says Phillippe, noting that he's served the Boy Scouts organization in various locations all over the country. "It's a very prestigious award. It takes a good deal of character in terms of project."

Nelson's project saved the 1,100 acres just 34 miles northeast of the Twin Cities from being developed. Much of the reason he was greatly interested in maintaining the land in an undeveloped state was that the property was adjacent to the nonprofit Beaver Valley Camp used largely by scouting groups.

Nelson, 51, attended the camp as a child, and was part of the troop whose previous members had formed the camp years before. "That's where they implanted the curiosity."

The curiosity that Nelson talks about is what helped to drive him both into adult scouting and the legal profession. When he was a political science and international undergraduate at the University of Minnesota, the camp had legal problems associated with the land. Those legal problems were severe enough that Nelson says his camp bought one piece of land three times (and, he says, "under my watch the third and final time.")

Boundary disputes and bogus deeds were par for the course, for years, according to Nelson, noting that the legal disputes over the land helped to push his interests into the legal arena, which led to his attending Hamline Law School for his law degree.

All through that time, he never got tired of spending time at Beaver Valley Camp. For the last 23 years, Nelson has spent anywhere from five to 20 hours a week volunteering at the camp, teaching inner-city kids activities such as soil conservation, trout pond repair and tree planting, the same things that he learned about when he went to the camp as an East Side youth.

Nelson, as he says, was "born, raised, and baptized on the East Side." He grew up on Stillwater Avenue, and since then has moved only three miles, to his current home close to Lake Phalen, which he shares with his wife Sandy and three of his four children.

"He's had many people recognized with our top award, the Eagle Scout award," says Phillippe. For the kids to progress that far, he says, Scout leaders such as Nelson need to provide a "huge number of opportunities" for them to work through the roughly 800 requirements necessary to get the badge.

Nelson's love of teaching doesn't stop at conservation practices. He's a Big Brother, a Sunday school teacher, and a meet director for the local YMCA swim team. He's also taught trial advocacy and been a Moot Court judge for Hamline and the Minnesota Bar Association.

While Nelson's past accomplishments include being listed in the Hamline Law School's Hall of Fame and four different Who's Who books, and winning roughly a dozen scouting awards since 1990, he's quite elated at having won the Hornaday Gold Medal.

"The Hornaday Gold Medal is awarded because of the regional or national impact," he says. "I never thought I would get it, and I'm really delighted and surprised that I did get it."

SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE SAFE DEPOSIT BOX ACT OF 1999

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 24, 1999

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 1259, the Social Security and Medicare Safe Deposit Box Act of 1999. Saving and strengthening Social Security is one of the highest priorities for me. After people work hard their entire life they should feel confident that they will receive their Social Security benefits.

The way I see it, we have to get Washington's hands out of Social Security once and for all. We need legislation that will permanently prevent Washington from raiding the Social Security surpluses for wasteful spending programs. The simple truth is that the Social Security Trust Fund will go into the red in 14 years unless we act now to strengthen it. Under H.R. 1259, Washington would never be able to touch Social Security dollars again, as 100 percent will be saved for Social Security.

The Social Security and Medicare Safe Deposit Box Act of 1999 will help us guard against attempts to raid the Social Security surpluses for more government spending by toughening budget procedures. This legislation will change the way the budget is presented so Social Security funds cannot be used for other purposes, including how we measure our Federal surplus.

Mr. Speaker, having paid into Social Security myself for over 40 years, I will never support hasty reforms that threaten the financial futures of those who have committed a lifetime of earnings to the system. As a father and a grandfather, I strongly believe it is time we take action to ensure Social Security will be available for generations to come.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1259 and protect Social Security.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM DeMINT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 24, 1999

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. Speaker, on May 20th, I missed rollcall vote No. 144 due to my daughter's graduation. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on agreeing to the Senate amendments to H.R. 4.

INTRODUCTION OF THE PESTICIDE REGISTRATION HARMONIZATION ACT OF 1999

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 24, 1999

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduced the Pesticide Registration Harmonization Act of 1999. I am pleased to have Representative RICK HILL of Montana and Representative JOHN BALDACCIO of Maine as original cosponsors on this very important legislation for American farmers and ranchers.

The premise of this legislation is quite simple. As a Member of Congress representing a border-state with Canada, I believe that it is essential for American farmers to be on the same level "playing field" as their international counterparts. I am hopeful that the Pesticide Harmonization Act of 1999 will begin a much needed dialogue between the United States and Canada on chemical harmonization as we head into the 21st Century.

The Pesticide Harmonization Act of 1999 is designed to establish a process under which the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) could be requested to review registration requests for certain pesticide products. The types of pesticides that would be reviewed are registered for use on a specific crop in Canada and are also registered in the United States but not for use on that specific crop. In addition, the chemical must be needed to respond to critical pest control needs of United States growers which are not otherwise being met, and supported for registration by their manufacturers. If the chemical meets these criteria then the EPA review process would be expedited. The EPA would have 180 days after receiving a request from the registrant for a specific product to either agree to accept the registration package approved by the Canadian Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) or to explain their reasons for not approving the request.

Clearly, there is an inequity in pesticide registrations, particularly for canola, wheat, and barley, between the United States and Canada. In the case of canola, Canada has about 40 pesticides registered while the United States has only seven. American farmers ought to have access to the same, environmentally safe pest control tools that are available to their Canadian counterparts.

Mr. Speaker, American farmers are facing 50 year low commodity prices, at the same time costs of production are continuing to rise. The Pesticide Registration Harmonization Act of 1999 is a step in the right direction of leveling the playing field for American producers.

HONORING THE KIWANIS CLUB OF MERRICK ON THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 24, 1999

Mr. KING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the 50th anniversary of the Kiwanis Club of Merrick which occurred on Sunday, May 23, 1999.

Known as "The Club With a Heart," the work of the Kiwanis Club of Merrick has benefitted children, senior citizens, teachers, students, disabled youth, needy families and Merrick residents in general. By engaging in activities of fundamental importance to our community, the club has consistently shown itself to be a leader in civic service.

Whether it is the distribution of food baskets to needy families during the holidays, awarding scholarship funds to deserving high school graduates, picnicking with disabled youth or sponsoring geriatric home visits and sing-along's, the dedicated members of the Merrick Kiwanis Club have played a crucial role in bettering the lives of countless members of