

County, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency—Region 5, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, The Conservation Fund, Army Corps of Engineers, and the Urban Resources Partnership. With the assistance of these project partners, the new exhibit will help to raise awareness of the importance of protecting not just animals in other parts of the world, but also species and natural habitats in our own communities.

Brookfield Zoo has always been a leader among zoos around the world. The zoo's mission is to focus on enhancing visitor understanding of the critical need for people to live more sustainably and harmoniously with the natural world through naturalistic environmental settings and accompanying interpretive materials. I invite all my colleagues to join me in celebrating the opening of the Salt Creek Wilderness exhibit, which, I am certain, will greatly strengthen the zoo's mission.

A BILL TO REPEAL THE SPECIAL OCCUPATIONAL TAX (SOT) ON THE SALE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 5, 1999

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, along with several of my colleagues on the Ways and Means Committee, Ms. THURMAN, Mr. NUSSLE, Mr. MATSUI, Mr. MCINNIS, and Mr. JOHN LEWIS, I am introducing a bill today to repeal the Special Occupational Tax (SOT) on the sale of alcoholic beverages.

We are introducing this bill to alleviate a problem that many of our constituents have raised with us. I know that many of our colleagues have also heard from convenience store owners, innkeepers, restaurant owners, vintners, wholesalers and other small business owners complaining about the burden of the Special Occupational Tax on the sale of alcoholic products.

The SOT is an annual tax imposed on all businesses that manufacture, distribute or sell alcohol products. Whether it's a seasonal restaurant, an Elks Lodge, convenience or grocery store, or even a campground or florist that delivers wine with flowers—no one is spared from the tax.

However, it is especially burdensome for small retail stores. Over 90 percent of all SOT revenue comes from retailers. In addition, small producers—especially wineries—have a difficult time meeting the obligations of this tax.

A recent General Accounting Office study, which conceded that the alcohol industry is a heavily taxed and regulated industry already, illustrated the problems caused by this tax, particularly on small business owners. This tax is an unnecessary burden and should be eliminated.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me as cosponsors on this bill to repeal this unfair tax on small businesses.

HONORING MATTHEW EMMONS ON CAPTURING A GOLD MEDAL AT THE PAN AMERICAN GAMES

HON. JIM SAXTON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 5, 1999

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate a young man from Pemberton Township, New Jersey, Matthew Emmons. Matthew brought home the gold with a near perfect score in the men's Prone Free Rifle competition at the 1999 Pan American games in Winnipeg, Canada. Matthew has made his country and the Pemberton Township community proud with his resounding victory under difficult conditions and against some of the world's finest athletes.

The sport of small-arms target shooting dates from the invention of the pistol and the rifle in the 16th century. For several centuries, the sport was contested only in sporadic impromptu fashion, because the firearms of that period were too undependable and inaccurate to meet the requirements of large-scale organized competition. Turkey shoots and weekend target-shooting matches were popular among the frontiersmen of colonial America.

During the American Revolution (1775–1783) and the American Civil War (1861–1865) rural sharpshooters played a strategic role as snipers. Popular interest in rifle shooting reached new heights after the Civil War, when the sport became a favorite diversion of city dwellers, groups of whom organized weekend target-shooting excursions into the countryside. New advances in the manufacture of weapons and ammunition, meanwhile, resulted in high standards of accuracy and reliability. By 1870, conditions were ripe for organized regional and national competition. Matthew has added to this great and venerable history with his honorable performance.

Mr. Speaker, Matthew's mental and physical fortitude guided him to victory. His patience, steadiness, clear vision and accuracy will likely lead to success at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks where he has enrolled, and to greater accomplishments in Olympic competition.

A TRIBUTE TO WILL RUBENS

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 5, 1999

Mr. KING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge just how fortunate I, my staff and the people of the Third District of New York were to have an intern that could serve as both Commissioner of Food and Beverage and Director of Internal Security for the past two months. To some he was known as Will Rubens but to me he was simply, "The Commish". Forget the fact that my Notre Dame doormat was stolen or the fact that my model E-2C Hawkeye was vandalized under his watch. In his investigation of these crimes, the Commish was undeterred and never allowed conspiracy theories to be generated by anyone other than himself. There was never a business card fight he didn't prematurely end for the sake of my staff or a private conversa-

tion he didn't interrupt. Despite the increase in crime in my office over the last two months I know that the Commish's powers are being wasted here while numerous crimes of ineptitude go unresolved on the football fields of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor—an ineptitude which will be glaringly disclosed when Notre Dame's Fighting Irish pulverize the Wolverines on September 4th. I am confident that the Commish will go on to bigger and better things and it has truly been a pleasure and honor to have him work in my office this summer. His intelligence and unique sense of humor will be missed. I thank you Will for all your hard work and effort. All the best.

INTERNET PHARMACY CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT OF 1999

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 5, 1999

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues, RON KLING, JOHN DINGELL, and BART STUPAK, in introducing the Internet Pharmacy Consumer Protection Act of 1999.

While the Internet is transforming global finance and culture, it is also raising novel questions about the practices of medicine and pharmacy. There is no question that the World Wide Web and other forms of e-commerce have facilitated consumer access to health information and products. Patients clearly benefit from the rapid dissemination of reliable medical knowledge, and from novel, convenient ways of receiving health care.

But unwary consumers are also increasingly exposed to fraud or quackery from anonymous, unaccountable vendors. Illegal, unsafe or unapproved drugs and dietary supplements are more widely available than ever. Hundreds of offshore and domestic "pill mills" dispense Viagra or Xenical to patients sight unseen—as well as to shorthair cats, the deceased, and patients with life-threatening counterindicated health conditions, as an investigation by WWMT of Kalamazoo, Michigan discovered.

On July 30, the Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing on online pharmacies. We heard a clear message from the testimony of Federal Trade Commission, the Food and Drug Administration, the Department of Justice, state authorities like the Texas Department of Health, and investigative media—regulators simply cannot enforce existing laws to protect consumers from illegal online pharmacies unless they know who is responsible and where they are.

The Internet Pharmacy Consumer Protection Act of 1999 requires very simple disclosures from online pharmacies. Tell us your name and place of business. Tell us where your pharmacy is licensed. And tell us where your online physician, if any, is licensed. That's all.

With this basic information, regulators are hamstrung. No enforcement is possible or requires unsustainable commitments of limited law enforcement resources. But enactment of and compliance with this legislation would quickly separate legitimate from illegitimate online pharmacies.

Failure to comply with these minimal requirements would also help warn consumers from questionable websites. In fact, Congress

and the Administration are already aggressively encouraging responsible online businesses to provide comparable disclosures regarding their privacy policies. The lack of licensure and privacy information at an online pharmacy should provide a clear warning of caveat emptor.

Nor does this legislation pose a technical barrier to e-commerce. It only asks online pharmacies to provide the same licensure information as brick and mortar pharmacies do when they hang framed licenses on the wall. It is a simple matter to add a few new links to online pharmacy sites. In fact, any person with rudimentary knowledge of HTML could write up the necessary information and upload it to a website in a matter of minutes.

The Internet Pharmacy Consumer Protection Act of 1999 is a simple and common-sense way to help federal and state authorities enforce existing consumer and public health protections. Responsible online pharmacies are likely already in compliance with the legislation, or could be in a matter of minutes. But illegal, unprofessional or questionable online pharmacies will be exposed to greater scrutiny and more susceptible to the enforcement of essential legal protections and State licensure requirements.

I urge my colleagues to join us in cosponsoring the Internet Pharmacy Consumer Protection Act of 1999.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO AMEND THE ALASKA NATIVE CLAIMS SETTLEMENT ACT

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 5, 1999

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that would address several matters of concern to Alaska Natives through an amendment to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA).

As my colleagues know, ANCSA was enacted in 1971, stimulated by the need to address Native land claims as well as the desire to clear the way for the construction of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline and thereby provide our country with access to the petroleum resources of Alaska's North Slope. As the years pass, issues arise which require amending that Act. The Resources Committee as a matter of course routinely considers such amendments and brings them before the House.

Consequently, I am introducing this bill containing several such amendments to ANCSA in order to facilitate having its provisions circulated during the upcoming Congressional recess through the Congress and the Administration as well as the State of Alaska for review and consideration.

This bill has nine provisions. One provision would allow common stock to be willed to adopted-out descendants and another would clarify the liability for contaminated lands. The clarification of contaminated land would declare that no person acquiring interest in land under this Act shall be liable for the costs of removal or remedial action, any damages, or any third party liability arising out or as a result of any contamination on that land at the time the land was acquired under this Act.

SECTION 5. ALASKA NATIVE VETERANS

Section 5 of the bill amends the Act further to allow equal access to Alaska Native Vet-

erans who served in the military or other armed services during the Viet Nam war. Alaska Natives have faithfully answered the call of duty when asked to serve in the armed services. In fact, American Indians and Alaska Natives generally have the highest record of answering the call to duty.

Under the Native Allotment Act, Alaska natives were allowed to apply for lands which they traditionally used as fish camps, berry picking camps or hunting camps. However, many of our Alaska natives answered the call to duty and served in the services during the Viet Nam war and were unable to apply for their native allotment. This provision allows them to apply for their native allotments and would expand the dates to include the full years of the Viet Nam war. The original dates recommended by the Administration only allowed the dates January 1, 1969 to December 31, 1971. Our Alaska Natives veterans should not be penalized for serving during the entire dates of the Viet Nam conflict. This provision corrects that inequity by expanding the dates to reflect all the years of the Viet Nam war—August 5, 1964 to May 7, 1975.

SECTION 8. ELIM NATIVE CORPORATION LAND RESTORATION

In 1917, the Norton Bay Reservation was established on 350,000 acres of land located on the north side of Norton Bay southeast of Nome, Alaska for the benefit of Alaska Natives who now reside in the village of Elim, Alaska. The purpose of the establishment of the reservation included providing a land, economic, subsistence, and resources base for the people of that area.

In 1929, through an Executive Order, 50,000 acres of land were deleted from the reservation with little consultation and certainly without the informed consent of the people who were to be most affected by such a deletion. After passage of ANCSA, only the remaining 300,000 acres of the original Reservation were conveyed to the Elim Native Corporation. This loss of land from the original Reservation has become over the years a festering wound to the people of Elim. It now needs to be healed through the restoration or replacement of the deleted fifty thousand acres of land to the Native Village Corporation authorized by ANCSA to hold such land.

As I am sure my colleagues will agree, the history of our nation reflects many examples of injustices to Native Americans. As hearings will confirm, this is one of those calls out to be sensibly remedied and can be with relative ease as outlined in this section of the bill.

Again, I am introducing this bill today to facilitate having its provisions circulated and reviewed during the August recess by the Department of the Interior, the State of Alaska and Alaska natives.

TRIBUTE TO THE U.S. ASIATIC FLEET AND U.S.S. TRINITY

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 5, 1999

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the bravery and valor exhibited by the veterans of the U.S. Navy Asiatic Fleet.

From 1910 to 1942, the Asiatic Fleet protected American interests and promoted Amer-

ican ideals in the Far East. At the time, the fleet was comprised of 3 cruisers, 13 World War I vintage destroyers, 29 submarines and a small number of gunboats and patrol aircraft. Following the declaration of war against Imperial Japan, the outnumbered and outgunned Asiatic Fleet courageously fought against a vastly superior Japanese armada comprised of 10 carries, 28 cruisers, 113 destroyers, and 63 submarines.

The fleet participated in the first surface U.S. naval engagement of World War II. Fighting with little aircover, the brave men and women of the fleet fought against all odds, but in the end they suffered staggering losses. The fleet lost 22 ships, 1826 killed, and 518 POWs.

The U.S.S. *Trinity* was one of the few surviving ships.

From September 1 to September 4, the surviving U.S.S. *Trinity* crew and their families will hold a reunion in Chicagoland. Although I will not be able to join them, I wish them all the best as they gather together to fellowship, renew their friendships, and cherish the thoughts of their fallen comrades.

Protecting freedom and democracy has a price, and many of the brave Americans in the Asiatic Fleet paid the ultimate price. As Americans, we are truly blessed to have had so many extraordinary men and women serve in our armed forces. Their Sacrifices enables us to live in the world we live in today.

So let us not forget their deeds. Let us not forget their blood, sweat, and tears. Let us remember the sacrifices they made, so that we may live in freedom instead of tyranny.

I submit that the many untold stories of the Asiatic Fleet and the U.S.S. *Trinity* are all profiles of courage.

Mr. Speaker, I salute them all today.

SALUTE TO JUDIE SEDELL, DEP- UTY PROBATION OFFICER OF THE YEAR

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 5, 1999

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, Judie Sedell of Simi Valley, California, says she just loves chasing criminals. She's good at it, too, which is one of the reasons this mother of two grown children recently was honored by the Ventura County Probation Agency as its Deputy Probation Officer of the Year.

Now in her 21st year as a probation officer, Judie not only is an exceptional probation officer, she is an exceptional person. Not only does she have the respect of her colleagues in the criminal justice system, she also has gained the admiration of her clients, even when they fail to stay on the right side of the law. In fact, Judie handles some of the highest-risk offenders, including rapists and armed robbers, and makes more arrests than any other officer in her unit.

Her success is due to hard work, a wonderful sense of humor and her ability to treat her clients with a combination of firmness, empathy, respect and dignity. She recently was observed joking with a convicted felon who had violated his probation. She gave him a candy bar, and, a short while later, told him he was under arrest. When she handcuffed him, he