

has provided quality education and guidance to Guam's young women. As a result, the school's alumnae have made substantial contributions toward the transformation of Guam from an island ravaged by war in the forties to its present status as a political and economic center in the Western Pacific. I am confident that this institution of faith and learning will continue its commitment to excellence by providing a valuable educational opportunity to the young women of Guam.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF  
BILL PETERSON, MINNESOTA  
AFL-CIO SECRETARY-TREASURER

**HON. BRUCE F. VENTO**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 15, 1999*

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to my colleagues attention the retirement of an individual who has committed his life as a tireless advocate for working men and women in Minnesota and our nation, Bill Peterson. Mr. Peterson has announced that he will retire from his nine years of service as the Minnesota AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer. Before that, Bill served as the Executive Secretary of the Minnesota Building Trades and business representative to the Iron Workers Local 512.

I have had the privilege of knowing Bill Peterson since his days as a "hand" on the job. In fact, he has had the benefit of working and associating with all of the Vento Boys (Dan, Frank, Kurt and myself) since he first started on his journey of the building trades leadership. He began as an Ironworker Business Representative, followed as the MN Building Trades Executive Secretary and eventually was elected to serve as the AFL-CIO Minnesota State Federation Secretary-Treasurer.

During his many years of service, Bill Peterson has worked to improve the quality of life for working families. His effectiveness during tough times as a spokesman for the Minnesota AFL-CIO has greatly benefited working people and educated more than one legislator. Under Bill Peterson, there have been great strides in the development of worker pension programs, the availability of year-round work for members of the building trades, the State Davis-Bacon law, the State Apprenticeship Council, and Union Labor Project contract agreements. Today and tomorrow, worker's conditions and wages will continue to evolve on the basis of the foundation established by building trade labor leaders like Bill Peterson.

There have also been some very tough events during Bill's tenure. One vivid event I'll always recall is when the tower antenna went down in Shoreview and iron workers lost their lives. While we grieved over their deaths, we also resolved not to let this accident go unnoticed. As a result, when Minnesota joined in the establishment of a worker's memorial day, it is events like this that are remembered. The Minnesota Building Trades have also been leaders for tough Occupational Health and Safety Act enforcement, with Bill Peterson in the forefront leading the fight for on the job safety and health.

Bill Peterson will best be remembered for his commitment to education and to the chil-

dren of working men and women. When the federal commitment to State Apprenticeship programs was under attack, Bill Peterson rallied Congressional and national labor to keep this important training program in place. As a key elected state-wide Member of the University of Minnesota Board of Regents, Bill has been a strong voice for working families, advocating forcefully to keep a college education as a financially viable option for the children of working families and for working men and women seeking new careers.

In addition to his professional activities, Bill has been a volunteer extraordinaire, donating his time and talents for my benefit and that of many others. It is in that role that I will always remember Bill. While many will remember him working the halls of the State Capitol or speaking at the State AFL-CIO convention, I will always picture Bill in an apron carrying a pot of Minnesota corn at the annual Vento Corn Feed for 25 years.

Despite the health challenges that have been a part of his life from youth, Bill has done much more than his share as a professional and a volunteer. His life's work provides labor brothers and sisters the shoulders to stand upon as today's and tomorrow's Minnesota Union movement and views move into the future.

Bill Peterson is truly an example of those whose successful leadership has positively promoted rights for the workers and workers families in our community. We are all richer for his advocacy, his hard work and most importantly, his friendship. I, as many throughout the labor-political sphere, deeply appreciate his friendship, support and counsel through the years.

All my best to Bill and also to his family, who have provided support through the years: his wife Lolly, their three children and grandchildren. It is with heartfelt thanks that I wish Bill Peterson the best of health and a well-deserved retirement.

TRIBUTE TO OTTO McMATH

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 15, 1999*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to pay tribute to one of the most committed, most dedicated and most courageous public interest advocates this country has ever known, Mr. Otto McMATH.

Whereas, the Almighty God has called to his eternal rest, my friend and neighbor, Mr. Otto McMATH; and whereas, for more than twenty years, Mr. Otto McMATH was an integral part of the staying power of the South Austin Coalition Community Council; and whereas, the South Austin Coalition Community Council, is one of the most effective organizations of its kind; and whereas, Otto McMATH and his neighbors have been instrumental in developing, promoting, and generating funds for the Low Energy Assistance Program, fighting back against redlining and other forms of economic discrimination and in developing community policing and neighborhood safety programs. As a member of SACCC, Mr. McMATH's acts of heroism are legendary. He was never a limelighter; but could always be counted upon to rise to the occasion when the need presented itself.

Mr. McMATH had a serious understanding of community interest and functioned with a high level of principle. He was never one to go along to get along or to make decisions on the basis of individual self interest or expediency. He was a true warrior, a true soldier and a true hero for the people.

I thank you Otto McMATH. You knew how to live and you have died with dignity.

SPANISH PARKS WILDERNESS ACT  
OF 1999

SPEECH OF

**HON. DIANA DeGETTE**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, September 13, 1999*

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 898 to designate certain land in the San Isabel National Forest in the State of Colorado as the "Spanish Peaks Wilderness". I believe wilderness designation for the Spanish Peaks is a critical first step toward preserving the unique, pristine wild lands in Colorado. In the last Congress, I cosponsored legislation introduced by Representative David Skaggs and cosponsored by Representative McINNIS which would have protected Spanish Peaks as wilderness.

This year's version is a good bill, but it contains a change which causes great concern. Unfortunately, a new provision in the bill allows the Forest Service to continue to permit motorized access to an off-road segment of the Wahatoya trailhead. This provision is both unnecessary and environmentally damaging. I hope the legislation will be amended to prevent such motorized use in this off-road segment.

With the introduction of H.R. 829, the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1999, and H.R. 898, I am heartened that we are having an active and thoughtful debate on wilderness. The majority of Coloradans believe that we must protect the forty-nine areas designated in my legislation as well as the Spanish Peaks. These areas constitute the backbone of our state's beauty and are essential in preserving our quality of life.

I commend my colleague for recognizing the importance of preserving lands like the Spanish Peaks Wilderness.

MARKING THE DAY THAT  
NGAWANG CHOEPHEL WAS DE-  
TAINED BY THE GOVERNMENT  
OF CHINA IN 1995

**HON. BERNARD SANDERS**

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 15, 1999*

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, today marks the day the Ngawang Choephel, a Tibetan musicology student at Middlebury College in Vermont, was detained by the Government of China four years ago. Ngawang Choephel studied musicology at Middlebury College on a Fulbright scholarship, and he was reported missing in 1995 while researching folk music in Tibet as part of his studies. It was more than a year before the Government of China acknowledged his arrest and imprisonment.

He is currently serving an 18-year prison term in a remote area of China. His mother has not seen him in more than 3 years, and officials of the Government of China refuse to allow her to see him.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of China has never produced any evidence whatsoever that Ngawang Choephel engaged in any political or illegal activity. His imprisonment is part of the Government of China's brutal campaign of repression in Tibet, Choephel's home.

We must not let Ngawang Choephel be forgotten. We must continue to use all the means at our disposal to secure his release from an unjust imprisonment on trumped-up charges, and we must continue our efforts to keep human rights high on this country's foreign policy agenda. Until we see genuine progress on human rights in China, we should withhold the granting of Most Favored Nation trading status, and we should urge U.S. corporations to stop investing in China. This kind of effort helped topple apartheid in South Africa, and there is no reason to believe it would not have an effect on the human rights situation in China.

I urge my colleagues to hold the Government of China accountable for its human rights abuses, and hasten the day that Ngawang Choephel is free again.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 15, 1999*

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, on September 9, 1999, I had to be in New York on official business and missed rollcall votes 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, and 404. I ask that the record reflects that had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote 399, "aye" on rollcall vote 400, "nay" on rollcall vote 401, "aye" on rollcall vote 402—the motion to recommit the VA/HUD Appropriations, "nay" on rollcall vote 403, the FY 99 VA/HUD Appropriations bill, and "nay" on rollcall vote 404, the DC Appropriations Conference Report.

#### ACKNOWLEDGE THE EXCELLENT WORK OF THE COOPERATIVE CENTER FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

### HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

### HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 15, 1999*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, we, Representatives BARBARA LEE and STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, note that this week, the 29th Congressional Black Caucus Annual Legislative Conference will be taking place in Washington, D.C. An Issue Forum on Credit Unions is being held on September 16, 1999 to expand on the critical knowledge that "Credit Unions Bring Power and Wealth to the Community".

The impetus for, and the success of this Forum is largely the work of Ms. Carole Kennerly, Director of the Cooperative Center Federal Credit Union, and the team that she brought together to develop this issue forum.

Mr. Speaker, I want to acknowledge the work done, and congratulate the members, employees, staff, board of directors and committee volunteers of the Cooperative Center Federal Credit Union (CCFCU) for its initiative in proposing and holding the Credit Union Issue Forum on September 16, 1999 and for bringing it to the attention of the 29th annual legislative conference of the Congressional Black Caucus in Washington, D.C.

Special appreciation is expressed to these individuals:

National Chairperson: Carole Kennerly, CCD, Director, Cooperative Center Federal Credit Union.

Coordinators:

IfeTayo, T.L. Bonner-Payne, Supervisory Committee, Cooperative Center, FCU.

Shirley A. Sheffield, Member, Cooperative Center Federal Credit Union.

Kim Medley, Member, Cooperative Center Federal Credit Union.

Joseph Villa, Former President/CEO, Allen Temple Baptist Church Federal Credit Union.

Barry Kane, V.P., Central Region Branches, Governmental Affairs, Patelco Credit Union.

Chris Kerecman, V.P., Federal Governmental Affairs, California Credit Union League.

Odesa J. Woods-Mathews, member, Social Security Administration Federal Credit.

Dr. Gwendolyn Nurse-Wright, Paragon Federal Credit Union, Englewood Cliff, N.J.

Rosemary George, Communication Specialist, National Credit Union Administration.

Patricia Brownell, V.P., Credit Union Development, National Credit Union Foundation.

N. Sharifah Ibsan, graphic artist.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. DEBBIE STABENOW

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 15, 1999*

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to explain my vote regarding H. Con. Res. 180, a resolution that expresses the sense of Congress that President Clinton should not have granted clemency to members of the FLAN. During my tenure in Congress, I have supported strong antiterrorism measures. I oppose the actions of the President and oppose the release of these prisoners. These acts of terrorism are obviously deplorable, and I am especially concerned about the lack of remorse shown by these prisoners. But I also oppose taking this vote before hearings are held and evidence is reviewed, given the fact that this resolution challenges the constitutional authority of the President. Thus, I have voted "present" on this bill.

#### RECOGNIZING NATIONAL POLLUTION PREVENTION WEEK

### HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 15, 1999*

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and support September 20–26 as National Pollution Prevention Week, which will be observed in the Second District of Ohio and throughout the Nation.

One of the most cost-effective ways to have clean streets, drinkable water, and breathable air is to focus on preventing pollution before it is created. Often, this is best achieved locally. The Greater Cincinnati Earth Coalition has done just that by forming a Regional Waste Reduction Group to focus on such things as energy conservation, plastics recycling, and generally reducing waste at the local level. The coalition is also actively involved in the implementation of a regional environmental education and information resource center.

Mr. Speaker, the objective to Pollution Prevention Week is to prevent pollution through education, cooperation, and voluntary recycling rather than through restrictive government regulations. It can encourage us to work for a cleaner environment while maintaining a competitive, prosperous business climate. These are goals we can all rally around, and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing Pollution Prevention Week.

#### SHOPPING FOR HEALTH CARE SHOULDN'T BE SO HARD

### HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 15, 1999*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, we all know the problems that the high cost of health care causes for Americans. What is surprising is how hard it is for a patient/consumer to shop around for the price of a medical procedure.

Shopping for the best price on a standard medical procedure is extremely difficult when one is healthy. It becomes nearly impossible when one is sick. Medicare should lead the way in helping establish pricing information that could help consumer/patients make their health care dollar stretch.

Over the last few weeks, my staff has made calls to various hospitals and doctors' offices to find the cost of an Extracorporeal Shock Wave Lithotripsy (ESWL) procedure. A lithotripsy procedure is one of the best ways to treat kidney stones, one of the more painful types of medical conditions that forces at least 100,000 Americans to require medical attention a year. Lithotripsy, an outpatient procedure which takes about an hour, uses a high energy machine to deliver shock waves to the kidney stone, smashing it to smaller pieces which then gradually pass out of the kidney, and then the body.

The data from these calls about the cost of lithotripsy were eye opening. Not only was the price difference between hospitals and facilities notable, but so was the difficulty in gathering the information, especially the cost of this procedure for Medicare enrollees.

For example, in the Greater Washington area, total cost of lithotripsy varied from approximately \$5,400 at Johns Hopkins USA hospital to approximately \$9,000 at George Washington University Hospital. The following chart lists other hospitals' and doctors' responses to the questions of cost for (1) someone without insurance and (2) someone with Medicare. What was as upsetting as the price differences was the difficulty in finding the cost to Medicare enrollees of this standard procedure. Staff was often told that hospital-using patients would be charged the 20% approved Medicare rate. In fact, patients often pay up to