

by as many as 300 illegal entrants in a given day passing through the Cleveland National Forest. These illegal trails grow deeper and deeper by the day causing erosion and irreparable damage to the forest. Contamination of streams is a major concern and in 1997 over eleven tons of trash left by illegal aliens passing through the forest had to be collected.

It is interesting to note that the U.S. Forest Service, nationwide, has more acreage and more visitors per year than the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service combined. The U.S. Forest Service has twice the number of violations to respond to with less than half the enforcement officers of the two previously mentioned agencies.

The Cleveland National Forest is unique in its locality; it lays contiguous to the Southwest U.S.A./Mexico border. The enhanced efforts of the U.S. Border Patrol in the San Diego area have pushed thousands of illegal aliens, heading North into the interior cities of the U.S., into this forest. Our defense against this invasion is a dedicated group of five U.S. Forest Service Law Enforcement Officers who are on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The rate of incidence of illegal aliens campfires rose from 855 fires in 1996 to 1,044 in 1997. Law Enforcement officers have the dual burden of apprehending these illegal aliens so as to prevent their camp fires from breaking loose and endangering not only the forest, but also the illegals hiding in the forest. Fire damage is not the illegal's only threat to the forest. Degradation of the forest from the uncontrolled massive gathering of firewood for cooking and nighttime warming fires by thousands of trespassers in devastating and will take centuries to mend.

Mr. Speaker, Tommy LaNier and the Law Enforcement officers of the U.S. Forest Service have set a standard to which all law enforcement specifically, and public servants in general, can aspire. The efforts of these dedicated officers make it possible for taxpaying American citizens, from all walks of life, to safely enjoy some of the most beautiful forest area in our great nation. I invite all Members to stand with me in saluting the law enforcement efforts in the Cleveland National Forest by Tommy LaNier and his team.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 424, the DOD Authorization Conference Report, I was held up in a traffic accident. Had I been present I would have voted "yes".

TRIBUTE TO GEORGE W. "WILL" GAHAGAN

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to note the passing of a prominent

American citizen, George W. "Will" Gahagan, who died in Carmel, California on December 8, 1998 at the age of 86.

Will was a man of broad interests, and notable achievements. He was well-educated, graduating in 1949 from Dartmouth, and worked as a newspaper reporter, federal public relations officer and foreign press liaison officer at the 1945 inaugural United Nations conference in San Francisco. Will attended Harvard during his graduate years, and in 1957 received his master's degree from Stanford University. During his Dartmouth years he met the poet Robert Frost, who was on the faculty, and later founded the California Friends of Robert Frost, a non-profit organization that helped establish Frost Plaza in San Francisco, Mr. Frost's birthplace.

Will was an educator as much as he was a student. He taught English for 15 years at high schools, including Tularcitos, Junipero Serra High School and Santa Catalina School in Monterey. He also taught at an international school in Rome. His students benefited greatly from his tutelage and enthusiasm for learning.

Will's contributions to Monterey County were as far-reaching as his range of interests. He wrote a column "Word Wise" for the Monterey Herald, produced and hosted a foreign affairs television program in Salinas, and wrote a guidebook about the Monterey Peninsula. He worked with many local organizations including the Carmel Foundation, the World Affairs Council, the Carmel City Planning Commission and the Carmel Library. Will helped create the Dennis the Menace Playground in Monterey, and helped raise \$250,000 for the Robinson Jeffers Tor House in Carmel. He was a member of the senior and super-senior national tennis teams, successfully competing in tournaments in Canada and Europe. Will has been inducted into the Dartmouth College Athletic Hall of Fame.

No list of accomplishments can represent the generosity of spirit, the vitality, and the intelligence that Will demonstrated every day. Will is to be remembered as an exemplary human being. He is survived by his wife Lorna; his sons Michael and Mark; his daughters Tappy and Lissa; his brother John; and, seven grandchildren. He will be sorely missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

TRIBUTE TO EARL REEDER

HON. DAVID D. PHELPS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. PHELPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Earl Reeder who is celebrating his 90th birthday this week. Earl was born on September 20, 1909, in Edgewood, IL., the son of Merrill and Myrtle (Hackney) Reeder. Earl is a lifelong Democrat and has dedicated over forty years of his life to public service. In celebration of his 90th birthday, a card shower was thrown for Earl and he has received well over a hundred birthday greetings; a testament to his popularity among his friends and neighbors.

Earl's career in public service has spanned over forty years and is a "public servant" in the true meaning of the term. He was made County Assessor in 1941 and resigned as Su-

pervisor effective September 9, 1982. Earl was on the Board of Review in 1961 and again in 1972. Earl also served as a precinct committeeman from around 1963 till his retirement in 1982. Throughout his career, Earl was always committed to the people he served and the Democratic Party he supported.

Mr. Speaker, Earl's dedication to public service is evident and I am commending him now for a lifetime of work. Earl is still a man who is in good health, has an excellent sense of humor and enjoys watching basketball and baseball. I encourage all my colleagues to join me now in wishing Earl a happy 90th birthday and a long and healthy future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I was not present for rollcall vote 418, on September 14, 1999. Please let the RECORD reflect that had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

WORLD STANDARDS DAY

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, today, the United States observes "World Standards Day."

Since 1970, World Standards Day has raised awareness of the need for international standardization in an increasingly global economy.

Harmonized technical standards provide open export markets for U.S. products. According to the Department of Commerce, standards play a role in \$150 billion worth of U.S. exports, and serve as a barrier to the export of between \$20 billion and \$40 billion worth of U.S. goods and services.

As other barriers to trade are torn down, non-harmonized technical standards are one of the last restraints on the free flow of international commerce.

World Standards Day is an example of how the public and private sectors can work together to ensure U.S. products and services are accepted in the global marketplace.

The co-chairs of the World Standards Day Committee are the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), a private institution, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST).

This type of public/private cooperation is crucial to ensure America's competitiveness in overseas markets.

Mr. Speaker, today, on World Standards Day, I ask the Congress to recognize the important role international standards play in our economy and in our international competitiveness.

RECOGNITION OF THE ONE HUNDREDTH BIRTHDAY OF JOHN MAGNOTTE

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the 100 years of John Magnotte's life. John was born on September 22, 1899, in Detroit Michigan. Today John lives in the beautiful community of St. Clair Shores where he settled in the 1950's.

John married Dorothy Fraquelle in 1927, and raised three children, two sons and a daughter, while working for General Motors for 30 years. Though he has been a widower for the last 10 years, Mr. Magnotte is today surrounded by five generations of children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and even great-grandchildren.

Mr. Magnotte is still very active in senior groups today, especially the St. Clair Shores Senior Cruisers Club. He is often found playing cards and socializing with the Cruisers, as well as the other senior groups in the area. He is always surrounded by friends and family and takes great pride in showing off the roses in his yard.

Besides his long life, we should recognize the experiences that John has acquired in his 100 years. He has lived through the administration of 18 different U.S. Presidents and the creation of five U.S. States. John went from the days of horse and buggy travel to witness space travel on television. Many of us can only dream of 100 years worth of visions and sights, a 100 years worth of character, a hundred years worth of emotions. John Magnotte's life is fit for framing, and should be cherished as a national treasure. I invite all of you to join me in honoring a true historian of the American Dream and wish John Magnotte a very happy one hundredth birthday.

IN HONOR OF REVEREND ALAN DAVIS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the passing of Reverend Alan Davis, an activist who fought in the interests of justice for the poor and the oppressed without counting the costs. Reverend Alan Davis dedicated his life to helping the underprivileged.

Reverend Davis spent more than 23 years serving as a pastor at St. Phillip's Christian Church on E. 30th St. near one of the city's poorest housing projects. He led the church community in providing emergency food supplies and tutoring for area families. During this time he was also the executive director of the City Club where he brought in diverse philosophers and speakers from around the world to discuss issues important to the club. As City Club executive director, and as pastor at St. Phillip's, Reverend Davis devoted much of his time to the Volgograd Forum, a free speech forum similar to the City Club in Volgograd, Russia.

As a veteran of World War II and serving in the signal corps, Reverend Davis dem-

onstrated his commitment to both God and country. From 1953 to 1961, Reverend Davis served at North Royalton Methodist Church and then moved on to Aldersgate Methodist Church in Warrensville until 1968. Since then he spent 23 years serving St. Phillip's Church in Cleveland.

His commitment also extended to serving society and defending the civil rights of all Americans. As a social activist he was associated with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and affiliated with numerous programs to feed and house the poor. Reverend Davis soon went on to Yale University where he graduated with a bachelor's degree and then a graduate's degree from Yale Divinity School in 1953.

My fellow colleagues, join me in recognizing the passing of Reverend Alan Davis, a man who consistently and without pause adhered to the principles and values of God at the price of self-interest. Let us aspire in our own efforts to show such a commitment and passion to truth.

COMMEMORATING THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA

HON. JAMES E. ROGAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the people of Armenia celebrated the eighth anniversary of their republic—honoring a national referendum in support of a free and democratic Republic of Armenia. Less than 1 month ago, I had the honor and the privilege of visiting this proud nation and would like to share with my colleagues what I learned about this nation whose culture and tradition dates back some three millennia.

Perhaps the most inspirational lesson I brought back concerns a terrible experience endured not only by the Armenian people, but by the world—the atrocities committed at the hands of the Ottoman Turks in the first decades of this century. Despite a cultural and political annihilation—indeed a genocide—the Armenian people have flourished as a defining culture in the Caucasus, in the United States, and on the world stage.

This resilience is evident in the Republic's rise from former captive nation under the Soviet empire state to independent democracy. As I learned on my recent trip, the Armenian people—in the United States and Armenia—have united behind the cause of a prosperous community and a productive nation. Today, Armenia is leading the region in development of infrastructure, technology and education.

As we celebrate this independence, I reflect on my meeting with the President of Armenia, Robert Kocharian. Through his efforts and those of his Azerbaijani colleague, Heidar Aliiev, the release of Armenian prisoners of war recently was secured. This is just one example of their work to end decades of bitter feuding in the region. President Kocharian also has guided his nation into a new era of education reform, of artistic rejuvenation and of economic development.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation is built upon a foundation of freedom, democracy, and independence. The Republic of Armenia, I am proud to report, follows this same tradition.

The Armenian people have proven that the triumph of the human spirit—despite decades of war, of genocide, and of oppression—can not stifle the will of a people to make their world a better place to live. I am honored to represent one of the largest populations of ethnic Armenians outside Armenia, and I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to have visited their homeland.

As we move toward a new century, and look back on the successes of our past, I would ask my colleagues to join me in saluting the remarkable achievements in the Republic of Armenia. To the Armenian people we send our respect and admiration on the occasion of your nation's eighth anniversary of independence.

BAPTIST CHURCH TARGETED BY AZERBAIJAN AUTHORITIES

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, I rise today to highlight a disturbing incident involving governmental harassment of religious believers in Azerbaijan. We have received reports of religious liberty violations perpetrated by governmental authorities. As a participating State of the OSCE, Azerbaijan has committed to insuring the freedom of individuals to profess and practice their religion. These recent governmental actions are a clear violation of Azerbaijan's OSCE commitment to the freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief.

On September 5th, government officials in Baku forced their way into a legally-registered church, Baku Baptist Church, and arrested sixty members of the religious group. The pastors of the church as well as a dozen foreigners were among those arrested and interrogated. The arrested Azeri religious believers were detained and asked to sign a statement affirming that they had attended an "illegal meeting" and promising not to attend the religious meetings in the future. Ultimately, two leaders of the church were sentenced to 15 days in prison on charges relating to resisting police. Likewise, then other foreign members of the religious group were charged with "engaging in religious propaganda" and "propagating against the Muslim faith," in violation of an Azeri law that forbids such activity. On September 8th, all ten foreigners were deported and more deportations are likely.

These events are alarming, Mr. Speaker. While there had been reports of governmental harassment in the past, especially of unregistered religious minority groups, these current events are especially problematic because the target of these actions was a legally registered religious group.

Mr. Speaker, these actions are in direct violation to Azerbaijan's OSCE commitments, including section 16 of the 1989 Vienna Concluding Document, which explicitly delineates the wide scope of activities protected, including the right to establish and maintain places of worship and granting them status under law to both profess and practice their faith. In the 1990 Copenhagen Concluding Document Article 9.1, Azerbaijan has reaffirmed "that everyone will have the right to freedom of expression, including the right to communication.