

anything in return. They must not worship idols, graves and mortals. Sikh's must always be ready to defend the weak and fight for justice and freedom.

There are five symbols that have both practical and spiritual meaning for the Sikh's. Unshorn hair means moral and spiritual strength. A wooden comb is to keep the hair neat and tidy. The Sikh must always wear a turban and women must keep their heads covered with traditional heading or a turban. An Iron bracelet reminds a Sikh that he must keep himself away from bad deeds. Special tailored shorts remind a Sikh that he is not to indulge in adultery. A sword on the person of an Amritdharti Sikh represents freedom. Last is political sovereignty. This reminds a Sikh of his duty to stand for truth, justice and righteousness.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Khalsa Panth's 300th birth anniversary. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing the Sikh community many more years of continued success and happiness.

TAIWAN'S NATIONAL DAY MARKS THE TRIUMPH OF DEMOCRACY

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 24, 1999

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my congratulations to the people of Taiwan on the occasion of their forthcoming 88th National Day. The people of Taiwan on October 10, 1999 will commemorate the anniversary of the 1911 revolution in China, which marks the ousting of the last imperial dynasty and beginnings of the Republic of China under the leadership of Dr. Sun Yat-sen.

As we celebrate the 88th anniversary of the Republic of China's triumph as a democratically free and economically prosperous nation state, it is becoming of us to pay tribute to leadership and heroic efforts of Dr. Sun Yat-sen. The courage and determination of the Chinese people in Taiwan, to act as architects of their own ambitions and choose their own destiny, serves as a profound inspiration to the freedom-loving people around the world. The success of the Chinese people stands strong as a model for emerging nations in Asia and the Pacific Rim.

Let this be a celebration of the outstanding successes people can achieve when they are free to exercise their rights, when they can aspire to greater heights, which they can pursue what they desire for themselves, their families and their nation. As the delegate from Guam, I recognize the fact that the island and people I represent share deep cultural and historical ties with Taiwan. As the closest American community to Taiwan, we, the people of Guam, feel especially proud of our relationship and wish them all the best on their celebration of National Day. The strong ties between the Taiwanese people and the people of Guam are longstanding. Whether as visitors or as new neighbors, the historical, economic and cultural traditions that exist between our peoples have cultivated a unique relationship. Toward that end, I would like to take this opportunity to honor the work of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Guam under the

Director General Leo Chenjan Lee. Through his capable hands, the Taiwan-Guam relationship is sure to yield even greater fruit and blossom ever brighter in the future. Let us, as a Nation, reaffirm our support as a vital trading partner and as a partner in democracy with Taiwan.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my most profound congratulations to Taiwan and President Lee Teng Hui on their celebration of National Day and on their continuous economic and democratic successes. It is altogether proper and fitting that we extend our prayers and remembrances, on behalf of the people of Guam, to all those who perished in the recent earthquake in Taiwan. May both the people of Guam and Taiwan continue to draw inspiration from one another and prosper long into the next millennium.

**CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 1059,
NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZA-
TION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2000**

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM GIBBONS

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 1999

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Chairman SPENCE for all of his hard work on this bill. His time and commitment is appreciated by me and this entire Congress.

The reason I am before you is to discuss the ability of State and local governments to carry out their legitimate environmental, safety, and health oversight authority under the newly formed National Nuclear Security Administration, as set forth in this bill.

Mr. Speaker, the State of Nevada is among several states that house nuclear weapons production and/or testing facilities. Nevada is in fact home to the Nevada Test Site. A unique national resource, the Nevada Test Site is a massive outdoor laboratory and national experimental center that is larger than the state of Rhode Island.

Established as the Atomic Energy Commission's on-continent proving ground, the Nevada Test Site has seen more than four decades of nuclear weapons testing. Since the nuclear weapons testing moratorium in 1992, and under the direction of the Department of Energy (DOE), test site use has diversified into many other programs such as hazardous chemical spill testing, emergency response training, conventional weapons testing, and waste management and environmental technology studies.

Mr. Speaker, the states that house our nation's nuclear weapons testing facilities, including my home state of Nevada, will be subject to the DOE re-organization provisions in this bill. Our efforts to protect the oversight rights of these states is paramount.

Mr. Speaker, the citizens of Nevada need your assurance that nothing in Title 32 of this bill, relating to the National Nuclear Security Administration, is intended to limit, modify, affect, or otherwise change any local, state or federal environmental, safety or health law, including any waiver of federal sovereign immunity in any such federal law, or any obligation of the Administration or the Department to comply with any such local, state or federal law.

Again, I would like to thank Chairman SPENCE for his work on this bill and I appreciate his willingness to work with me on this very important issue.

**IN COMMEMORATION OF THE
PRESENTATION OF "THE GOLD-
EN MOMENT," AN ICE SKATING
EXTRAVAGANZA, PRESENTED BY
THE KRISTI YAMAGUCHI AL-
WAYS DREAM FOUNDATION**

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 24, 1999

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize The Kristi Yamaguchi Always Dream Foundation, which is headquartered in Oakland, CA, on its September 18, 1999 presentation of an ice skating extravaganza, "The Golden Moment." This presentation will serve as a fundraiser for the Foundation in support of its efforts to help in the fight against breast cancer. Kristi Yamaguchi created the Always Dream Foundation to inspire and embrace the hopes and dreams of children and help them fulfill their dreams.

Since its incorporation in 1996, The Always Dream Foundation has provided substantive support to organizations that have a positive influence on children. The Foundation's motto, "Always Dream," has served as the personal inspiration for Kristi Yamaguchi for many years, and has served as a constant reminder to dream big and never lose sight of her goals. Her dreams and accomplishments have been fulfilled as a direct result of her family's nurturing and love. The Kristi Yamaguchi Always Dream Foundation and Mervyn's California are presenting "A Golden Moment" figure skating concert on ice, accompanied live in-concert by the Oakland East Bay Symphony. This unique performance will be dedicated to helping make strides to overcome breast cancer.

I commend The Kristi Yamaguchi Always Dream Foundation for its diligence and perseverance in garnering the resources necessary to enrich and uplift the lives of the youth of this nation and the world. It has been through the Foundation's perseverance that it has garnered the resources necessary to support the struggle to overcome the ravages of breast cancer.

I wish to extend to The Kristi Yamaguchi Always Dream Foundation, its staff, donors, and volunteers sincere best wishes for success as they present "A Golden Moment" ice skating extravaganza to the citizens of Oakland and Alameda County.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE LAS
CIENEGAS NATIONAL CONSERVA-
TION AREA ESTABLISHMENT
ACT OF 1999**

HON. JIM KOLBE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 24, 1999

Mr. KOLBE. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to introduce legislation creating the Las Cienegas National Conservation Area (Las

Cienegas National Conservation Area Establishment Act of 1999). Las Cienegas is Spanish for marshes or bogs. In the Southwest desert, water is a treasured commodity. A cienega is even more precious and rare. This essential resource—water—is becoming increasingly difficult to manage because of the changes we see in the region. This legislation takes a large step to provide positive management. It establishes a national conservation area in the Cienega Creek and Babocomari River watersheds located in southern Arizona. The NCA will conserve, protect, and enhance various resources and values while allowing environmentally responsible and sustainable livestock grazing and recreation.

Congressionally designated National Conservation areas (NCAs) have developed through the years as a method to protect and manage special areas that do not fit neatly into a traditional designation, such as wilderness. The NCA designation allows for flexible and creative management strategies for a resource area, while a designation of wilderness mandates a management structure set out in law. Therefore, an NCA is useful when there is a need to accomplish two objectives: (1) permanence to a management strategy, which is usually a compromise by all the stakeholders; and (2) flexibility to stipulate special management practices.

In 1995, the Sonoita Valley Planning Partnership (SVPP) was formed to work on public lands issues in the Empire-Cienega Resources Conservation Area, which the BLM established in 1988. The Partnership is comprised of various stakeholders, such as hiking clubs, conservation organizations, grazing and mining interests, off-highway vehicle clubs, mountain bike clubs, as well as Federal, State, and county governments. The SVPP has developed a collaborative management plan for these lands, and an NCA designation would give this plan's objectives permanence and assure implementation.

The Las Cienegas National Conservation Area Establishment Act would save a large tract of land significant for preserving a cross-section of plants and wildlife. The NCA would provide corridors for animal movements that are necessary for the long-term viability of important species. Two of southern Arizona's perennial streams, the Cienega Creek and the Babocomari River, would be protected, ensuring a long-term, sustainable riparian area. However, the NCA designation also retains these lands for human use. Ranching and recreation are integral parts of this conservation area, and the proposed legislation states this clearly.

The core of this NCA designation is the management plan, which must be based on the SVPP land use management plan. The plan will include several key elements: A program for interpretation and public education; a proposal for needed administrative and public facilities; a cultural resources management strategy prepared in consultation with the Arizona State Historic Preservation Officer; a wildlife management strategy prepared in consultation with Arizona's Game and Fish Department; a production livestock grazing management strategy drafted in consultation with the State Land department; a strategy for recreation management including motorized and nonmotorized recreation, formulated in consultation with the State; and a cave resources management strategy.

Another key component of the proposed legislation is the acquisition of land. This proposal reaffirms the principle of maintaining private property in Arizona, currently only 17.7 percent of the State, while providing the flexibility needed to include state lands in management strategies. Under this proposed bill, private land can be acquired only through donation, exchange, or conservation easements. To further ensure that Arizona's privately held lands will not be diminished, the proposed legislation specifically states that an exchange must not "reduce the tax base within the State of Arizona." In addition, conservation easements are given a priority, and any activity related to private lands must be done with the consent of the owner.

This bill has been drafted by the people who live and work in this area, and I am honored to introduce this bill for them and for future generations of Arizonans. The Las Cienegas National Conservation Area Establishment Act is proof positive that people with seemingly different objectives can work together and find a large expanse of common ground. This bill supported by ranchers and environmentalists, both understanding that they want the same thing—a beautiful and vibrant southern Arizona.

THE SENIORS MENTAL HEALTH ACCESS IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1999

HON. NATHAN DEAL

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 24, 1999

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce Seniors Mental Health Access Improvement Act of 1999. I urge support of this important legislation to address the mental health needs of our nation's elderly population.

According to the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), nearly 2 million Americans over the age of 65 suffer from depression. Timely and appropriate access to mental health services is a critical component in depression treatment and suicide prevention. Unfortunately, many of those two million older Americans do not have access to appropriate mental health services or, if they do have access, the mental health provider available to them is not covered by the Medicare program.

Failure to treat depression has devastating consequences. It is a national tragedy that one of the highest rates of suicide in the United States is found in white males over the age of 85. Depression is treatable and suicide preventable if we make mental health services more readily available to the Medicare population. The legislation Representative STRICKLAND and I introduce today is an important step in the battle to improve mental health services access for older Americans.

The Seniors Mental Health Access Improvement Act would authorize Medicare Part B coverage of marriage and family therapists (MFTs). For many years, the Federal Government has recognized a core group of mental health providers. The five groups of professionals are: psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, psychiatric nurses, and marriage and family therapists.

When assessing the availability of mental health services, the Federal Office of Shortage

Designation (OSD) determines the availability of each one of these health professionals when determining whether a community should be considered a Mental Health Professional Shortage Area. According to OSD, nearly 50 million Americans currently reside in areas designated by the Federal Government as a Mental Health Professional Shortage Area.

Unfortunately, while many older Americans may live in an area the Federal Government has determined to have an adequate supply of mental health professionals, the reality may be something quite different. You see, Mr. Speaker, of the five core mental professionals I mentioned earlier, all but one are covered by the Medicare program. Marriage and family therapists are the only mental health professional not recognized by Medicare.

The Seniors Mental Health Access and Improvement Act seeks to correct this oversight. Many may hold a common misconception that marriage and family therapists only deal with marital strife or family communication problems. In fact, like psychologists and social workers, marriage and family therapists provide a full range of mental health services. When you examine the state laws governing social workers and marriage and family therapists, my colleagues will find that the education and training criteria for licensure as a social worker is often identical to the requirements for licensure and certification as a marriage and family therapist. In other words, like social workers, marriage and family therapists are educated and trained to diagnose and treat those mental disorders and services currently covered by the Medical program.

Currently, 42 states license or certify marriage and family therapists, and legislation is either pending or anticipated in the remaining 8 states. In each of these states, the standards of licensure or certification are virtually identical to the standards for licensure or certification as a social worker: possession of a Master's degree or Ph.D. from a recognized program for marriage and family therapy or a related field and at least two years of supervised clinical experience in marriage and family therapy. In the 8 states where licensure or certification has not been achieved, MFTs are able to practice if they are eligible for clinical membership in the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy which is the national certifying body for marriage and family therapists.

Although the name might suggest that the scope of services MFTs provide would be limited to problems arising due to marriage, their title merely refers to the context in which they treat common mental disorders. For example, research has shown that one of the greatest risk factors for depression is family stressors. In addition, the likelihood of relapse is more likely when family stressors are not addressed in treatment. MFTs treat the individual in the context of their spousal and family relationships. Such an approach not only affords the provider a better context in which to deal with the underlying problem, but increases the likelihood for a successful outcome.

I want to make it clear to my colleagues that the proposal we are putting forward today does not expand the scope of mental health services currently available to Medicare beneficiaries. Our proposal would simply state that when a marriage and family therapist provides a mental health service to a Medicare