

organization now provides meals five days a week from two different sites. It also maintains a food pantry which distributes over 325 food boxes each month to area families. Medical attention and emergency shelters are also made available by the group. The Samaritan House offers free tutoring and legal services, as well as clothing and furniture. This type of service, which is urgently needed in our community, has been generously provided by the Samaritan House.

Over 1,200 volunteers work with Samaritan House, and these generous people share their means and contribute their time and effort to assist those in need. They promote self-sufficiency and preserve the dignity and worth of those they help. It is my desire that my colleagues in the Congress not only pay tribute to Samaritan House but that—in recognition of the quarter century of humanitarian achievement of Samaritan House—we renew our own personal commitment to assist those who are in need.

Mr. Speaker, Samaritan House is an inspiring organization. It has helped people who are in need not only with immediate care and the necessities of life, but it has also helped to provide longer-term help so that people are able to stabilize their lives and move on to self-sufficiency. I am extremely grateful for the caring men, women, and children who have dedicated time and energy to this endeavor. I invite my colleagues to join me in expressing our sincere appreciation and congratulating Samaritan House on its twenty-fifth anniversary.

HONORING WILLIAM E. CHALTRAW

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor William E. Chaltraw for his commitment to the Fresno community and his dedication for his countless hours of volunteer work.

William E. Chaltraw, owner of Chaltraw & Associates, has 23 years of experience as a certified public accountant. His associates include his daughter Kristen, also a certified public accountant, and his wife Agnes, office manager of the family-owned business.

Chaltraw moved to Fresno with his parental family in 1963 from Detroit, Mich. He later graduated summa cum laude from CSUF in 1976 and spent most of his years as a partner at Deloitte & Touche before hanging out a shingle bearing his family name. He also taught individual, partnership and corporate taxation at his alma mater for more than four years.

Chaltraw is a man who seems to consistently take on additional responsibilities. Right now, he is the chairman of Community Medical Foundation's board of trustees and a member of Community Medical Center's corporate affairs committee. As chairman, Chaltraw's duties include overseeing the board's activities, meeting with corporate officers and volunteers and directing the goals the foundation has set.

Community certainly isn't Chaltraw first experience with nonprofit organizations. His experience includes serving as president of the Fresno Metropolitan Rotary Club, past presi-

dent of the Rotary Storyland/Playland board of trustees, and chairman of the taxation committee for the Fresno chapter of the California Society of Certified Public Accountants. He also serves as treasurer for the Bulldog foundation and set to be president of the foundation in the near future.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor William E. Chaltraw for his extraordinary leadership among local business and community activities. He has provided Fresno community with many years of outstanding commitment and handwork. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Chaltraw many more years of continued success.

NATIONAL MONUMENT NEPA COMPLIANCE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 24, 1999

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, since I was elected to Congress, I have been focusing on the issue of livable communities and how we can create better partnerships between the Federal Government, State and local governments and our citizens. As amended this bill will increase input from local communities while preserving important national landmarks.

The 1906 Antiquities Act has served our nation well for almost a century. It has led to the preservation of the Grand Canyon, Death Valley, and Grand Teton National Parks. These sites have great environmental importance, they add to our nation's heritage, and through tourism they are an important part of local economies. This legislation would ensure that the President continues to have the authority to designate monuments, while giving communities a larger voice in the process. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1487, the Public Participation in the Declaration of National Monuments Act.

HONORING EFFORTS TO PRESERVE THE SAN JACINTO BATTLEGROUND STATE HISTORICAL PARK

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 1999

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the people and the spirit behind efforts to restore and maintain San Jacinto Battleground State Historical Park in the 25th Congressional District. This weekend I will have the honor to join members of the Harris County State Legislative Delegation and other members of the Texas Legislature, including the Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives James E. "Pete" Laney as they tour the battleground site including a boat ride down Buffalo Bayou and the Houston Ship Channel to its confluence with the San Jacinto River where the Battle of San Jacinto took place on April 21, 1836. This site, now State Park and monument along with the San Jacinto Museum of History, is where the Army of the Republic of

Texas, under the command of General Sam Houston, surprised and overwhelmed the Mexican Army and forced the surrender by its General Santa Anna leading to the establishment of the Republic of Texas and, nine years later, its entry into the United States.

In Texas, we believe in honoring our ancestors and preserving history for future generations. That's why the old-fashioned boat ride and picnic symbolizes more than a pleasant outing. It is a reenactment of boat trips from a century ago, when the San Jacinto Chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas hosted trips in the 1980s to attempt to persuade State Legislators to purchase and preserve land around the Battlefield.

The Battlefield and surrounding land, now totaling more than 1000 acres, has long been considered a historical treasure by Texas residents, and was dedicated as a State Park in 1907, eventually receiving designation as a National Historic Landmark. In 1939, work was completed on the towering 567-foot San Jacinto Monument. Designated as a National Engineering Landmark, the Monument rises 12 feet higher than the Washington Monument and is the world's tallest monument column. The Museum which is housed in the base of the Monument opened in 1939 and holds hundreds of thousands of artifacts relating to Texas as a part of Spain, Mexico, the Republic of Texas, and early Statehood. Operating in a public/private partnership, the Park is administered by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department; and the San Jacinto Museum of History, a nonprofit educational organization, operates the Museum.

The goal of the individuals currently working to preserve San Jacinto State Park, the Battlefield, the Monument, and the Museum is just as compelling and challenging today as it was a hundred years ago. This weekend the Trustees of San Jacinto State Park and Museum will do more than launch a boat trip; they will launch the beginning of the effort to return much of the Battleground to its natural appearance at the time of the 1836 battle and to transform the site into a world-class interpretive center and museum. The New Master Plan for the San Jacinto Battleground State Park, which will be outlined for the public and legislators, will eliminate some of the modern additions to the site that lessen the impact of experience for the 1.5 million people who visit the site annually. Restoring the site to its original and natural state will serve to create a better understanding of the sacrifices of those who fought there and the extraordinary historical significance of the battle itself.

Today it is very difficult for visitors to traverse the site and understand the Battle because of so many changes to the Battleground. Since its original designation as a Park, the Battleground has been partially obscured by buildings and monuments; by disposition of dredging soil; by landscaping; by construction of roads, picnic pads and other structures; and by subsidence ranging from eight to ten feet. Interpretation of the Battle is further complicated by the presence of the Battleship of Texas and its parking and support facilities. The main goals of the San Jacinto Battleground State Historical Park Master Plan is to give primary emphasis to the Battle and its physical setting in order to enhance interpretation and the visitor experience. After all, the site's national significance

is due to the 1836 Battle, and to the extent feasible, the Master Plan focuses on returning the Battleground to its 1836 condition of prairie, marshes and trees so that visitors can visualize and understand the terrain and its influence on the tactics and outcome of the Battle.

A hundred years after the Daughters of the Republic of Texas saw fit to lobby the Legislature, forward-thinking individuals with vision and heart who want to preserve historically significant Texas for our children and grandchildren are again springing into action. Great Texans such as the Trustees and officials of the San Jacinto Museum of History, including Paul Gervais Bell, William P. Conner, and J.C. Martin; the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, including Marian Beckham and Jan de Vault; Representatives for the Harris County Delegation, including Rep. Jessica Farrar and Rep. John Davis, and just some of the people who are once again taking up the cause of Texas history and culture. Also, Sam Houston IV, the great-grandson of General Sam Houston will be present along with Andrew Sansom, Executive Director of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

As a fifth generation Texan I am especially proud that my family has been actively involved in the preservation of battleground and museum. My grandfather, the late Col. William B. Bates, was one of the five founding Trustees of the San Jacinto Museum of History when it was organized in 1938. He was instrumental in helping to establish and maintain the museum's operations and its historically significant collection of Texana and Western Americana. I maintain many volumes of Texas history from his personal library. That enduring love for preserving history and heritage lives on with my mother, Mary Bates Bentsen, who currently serves as a Trustee of the Museum.

In an area now known for petro-chemical production and the activity associated with one of the world's busiest seaports, one can still look out from the battleground site and see the Lynchburg Ferry which ran at the time of the battle and does so today. In his farewell to his troops delivered May 5, 1836, General Houston said of his forces, "Your valor and heroism have proved unrivaled . . . You have countered the odds of two to one and borne yourselves in the onset and conflict of battle in a manner unknown in the manners of modern warfare. (W)hen liberty is firmly established by your patience and your valor, it will be fame enough to say, "I was a member of the Army of San Jacinto."

Mr. Speaker, we Texans believe the Battle of San Jacinto was a defining moment in our history which must be preserved for generations to come. I congratulate the San Jacinto Museum of History's Trustees, the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, and other friends of the Park for continuing the fight to preserve our historical places and culture. All of Harris County, the entire state of Texas, and our future generations are the richer for their noble efforts.

TRAGEDY IN EAST TIMOR

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 29, 1999

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, on September 4, 1999, U.N. officials announced the

results of a U.N.-sponsored referendum of voters in East Timor. 78.5 percent of the voters rejected an Indonesian government plan for East Timor to receive a special autonomy arrangement within Indonesia. This result, which effectively called for independence, sparked a rampage of killings and other acts of terror by East Timorese paramilitary groups supported by the Indonesian Army.

One of my constituents, Mr. Michael Rhoades of Chicago, went to East Timor to serve as a United Nations accredited observer of the August 30 referendum. He participated with the International Federation for East Timor (IFET) Observer Project as a photo-journalist. I submit a copy of a recent letter from Mr. Rhoades dated September 25, 1999. He was an eyewitness to the horrors that took place in East Timor.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 2809. This bill will impose an immediate suspension of assistance to Indonesia until the results of the August 30, 1999, vote in East Timor have been implemented.

I send this letter out of desperation, writing from Australia where I've been for a few weeks courtesy of an Australian Air Force evacuation flight from Dili, East Timor. Two weeks ago I flew from Darwin (our evade destination) to Sydney, sitting frustrated and sad now as I wait to fly back into Timor. It is difficult to write this because there is so much to say, because these have been some of the most heartbreakening weeks of my life, feeling absolutely powerless as politicians bow and curtsy through shallow condemnations of the Indonesian massacre in East Timor.

I was in East Timor as an election/human rights observer with the International Federation for East Timor's observer project (IFET-OP). We were (I add proudly) the largest observer group in Timor, at one time numbering almost 150 participants with small teams dispersed in villages and cities throughout the country. Our mandate was to document human rights abuses and election rule violations during the August 30 popular consultation, as well as the periods immediately preceding and following.

During my stay in Timor I saw time and again the blurring between ranks of military, police, and militia personnel. I heard stories from refugees sheltering in churches who'd been told that if the vote was for independence their village would be slaughtered. I heard soldiers scream to a family cowering behind the front wall of their home that they'd be back to kill them in the night. I helped try to save a young man (younger than me) dying from machete wounds, ghost-walking bleeding from his shoulder, arms, and gut—bone and intestines pressing through split flesh.

I saw this younger-than-me man wrapped in soaked-through bloody sheets as we helped him into our truck. He remained absolutely silent while his sister and father screamed his pain and part of our team sped him off to the only medical clinic still functioning in Dili. I saw him (in-head) as we dodged military and militia patrols trying to get (quick and nonchalant) back home. I see him as I write this letter, I see him as I remember hearing that he was dead.

I see this younger-than-me man as Indonesia stalls for time and our leaders huff and sigh for the cameras and their respective constituencies. I see this dead boy, and my friends left behind in East Timor.

I fear (am terrified) for the life of Gaspar da Costa whose house we rented in the mountain village of Maubisse, and who went behind that house to quietly cry while we went

inside to hurriedly pack after telling him we were evacuating, leaving his town for the "safety" of Dili; "and what happens to my family?" he asked as we swapped our integrity for our skins. And I snapped pictures of Gaspar and his brothers and wife and daughters to document in advance the barbarism of the Indonesian government, preferring to photograph the da Costas while still alive, hugging Gaspar with everything in me when we left, feeling (though not wanting to believe) that I was hugging a dead man.

And through the cacophony of U.N. sabre rattling I hear Father Mateus, the priest of Maubisse, who assured me that he was not a hero but who absolutely was. And though the East Timorese soil is wet with the blood of thousands far braver than me, I am particularly in awe of Father Mateus who sheltered refugees in his church and who stood up to the local police and militia heads, saying boldly that he did not trust them because he had been shown time after time that he could not trust them. The last I heard of Father Mateus, his name was at the top of the local militia deathlist. Selfless to the point of bullheadedness Father Mateus declared that there had not yet been a priest martyred for East Timor (because at the time there had not been) and he was prepared to be the first.

I remember the horror in the Maubisse polling center the afternoon of the vote when certain militia members and military officers had whispered to the local Timorese polling staff that they'd kill them all in their homes that night. I remember that they slept in the polling center (Maubisse's schoolhouse) on the floor with no blankets, using deconstructed cardboard voting booths as mats. I remember leaving them there when we went home to dinner and a bed at Gaspar's because we were forbidden by our mandate to stay with them through the night. I remember walking up to the school at sunrise the next morning as we'd promised, to see if all was ok, and finding everyone across the road in the church for morning mass. I remember the terror still sharp in their faces as mass finished and they dragged along on tired-of-it feet back to their refuge in the school. And there were the folks who wound their way round to us between the mass and their refuge and shook our hands because they mistakenly thought that we had made the vote possible when it was them—the East Timorese—coming out to vote in mind-blowing numbers that made the vote. And there was the old woman who came up to us and shook our hands and kissed them and said, "friend."

I remember my friend Meta who shouted my name and came up to hug me when our team walked through the gates of IFET's Dili HQ after we'd evacuated Maubisse. Meta who was so proud to introduce me to his father. Meta my friend, who is running; who went to hide in the hills. Who I hope with every part of me is still alive, as I do Gaspar and his family and Father Mateus and the brothers and refugees in his church . . . and here I feel like I'm being selective and truly I wish that no Timorese were being slaughtered. But that now is an impossibility, estimates put the death toll in the high thousands or tens of thousands and the longer that we U.N. member states stall, the greater the number of East Timorese being massacred or forcibly "relocated" and the greater our collective shame.

When I originally drafted this letter for a few small U.S. newsmagazines, Indonesia had just conceded to allow a U.N. peacekeeping force into East Timor. I, among others, did not trust them. They would stall for time. And in that time there would be more slaughter. It is a week later now and much of this U.N. force is in the region, working with