

based air strikes against North Korean forces and took on several assignments, including Commander of Fighter Squadron 54, Executive Commander of the U.S.S. *Wasp*, Deputy Commander at Naval Air Station, Memphis, and Navy Liaison at Sikorski Aircraft Company.

In 1966, after 25 years of faithful service, Chris retired from the Navy having earned numerous awards and medals, including the Silver Star, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Presidential Unit Citation, and the National Defense Medal.

Mr. Speaker, in an era when our nation's veterans are often not given sufficient recognition, outstanding leaders, such as Chris Fink, exemplify the courage and dedication of our nation's military and remind us all what it means to be an American hero.

TRIBUTE TO NEW MEXICO
PARENTS OF THE YEAR

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, I wish to bring to your attention the recipients of the 1999 New Mexico parents of the year award. This award is administered by the New Mexico Parent's day coalition. As we recognized these parents, I thank them for the role they play in strengthening and restoring the foundation of our country—the family.

Bob and Tina Schmitt, Los Lunas; Steve Trujillo, and Barbara Gauna Trujillo, Albuquerque; Kent and Carolyn Cummings, Las Cruces; Ronald and Joy Jones, Albuquerque; David and Rose Ostrovitz, Albuquerque; Robert and Mary McCray, Las Cruces; and Pete and Catherine Powdrell, Albuquerque.

Please join me in thanking these parents for their dedication to raising good citizens and their contributions to New Mexico's future.

EXPORT ENHANCEMENT ACT OF
1999

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 13, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1993) to reauthorize the Overseas Private Investment Corporation and the Trade and Development Agency, and for other purposes:

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Chairman, I rise in favor of this amendment to require the public disclosure of environmental impact statements for all OPIC projects designated "Category A". It requires information disclosure for environmentally sensitive OPIC Investment Fund projects such as oil refineries, chemical plants, oil and gas pipelines, large-scale logging projects and projects near wetlands or other protected areas. Current OPIC Investment Funds are not subject to any transparency requirements. Furthermore, no specific information on these projects is contained in OPIC's annual reports.

As a consequence, Congress, the public and the residents living near OPIC have no knowledge of the potential environmental and related financial and political risks. What is the taxpayer's interest in these projects?

Taxpayers are liable for OPIC investments overseas if they fail. Private corporations and investors make investments in OPIC Investment Funds. OPIC-supported funds, in turn, make direct equity and equity-related investments in new, expanding and privatizing companies in "emerging market" economies. While taxpayer money is not actually invested in these funds, taxpayers are liable for the investments should they fail. These funds have invested in more than 240 business projects in over 40 countries. Recent estimates show that the total amount in Investment Fund programs will soon reach \$4 billion.

Since taxpayers are exposed to millions of dollars of potential liabilities, I believe OPIC has a responsibility to Congress and the public to operate in an open and transparent manner. The lack of environmental transparency conceals environmentally destructive investments of these funds not only from Congress and the American public, but also to locally-affected people in the countries where OPIC projects are run.

For example, a 1996 FOIA lawsuit focusing on OPIC activity in Russia revealed that an Investment Fund project was involved in clear cutting of primary ancient forests in Northwest Russia. Russian citizens, expecting democracy building assistance from the U.S. Government, had not been provided with any environmental documentation. In fact, according to documents obtained in the lawsuit, an OPIC consultant had falsely documented the Russian citizens' support for the harmful, irreversible logging of pristine forests.

OPIC Investment Funds have also been involved in a gold mine in the Côte d'Ivoire in the area of a primary tropical forest which is opposed by local citizens. Reports of other troubling projects are also being circulated. Conservation groups have filed FOIA requests to obtain the names, nature, location and environmental impact assessments for all OPIC investment fund projects. OPIC, however, continues to conceal the environmental consequences of these questionable investments from the public.

What little information that has been uncovered about these funds reveals a checkered environmental record. With environmentally and socially sensitive projects being a main focus of the funds, public disclosure of environmental impact assessments is even more crucial.

Organizations such as the National Wildlife Federation, Friends of the Earth, Institute for Policy Studies, Environmental Defense Fund, Sierra Club, Center for International Environmental Law and Pacific Environment and Resources Center have long advocated for increased transparency in OPIC Investment Fund projects.

Representatives of these organizations met with the new OPIC President in February where he agreed with their assertion that these funds should be transparent when it comes to the environment. OPIC recently launched a \$350 million equity fund for investment in Sub-Saharan Africa which will include transparency and public disclosure provisions. But there are still 26 other funds which remain shrouded in secrecy.

With almost \$4 billion dollars invested in these programs, and OPIC's sketchy environmental record, it is ever more important that OPIC be held accountable to the public regarding its investments in environmentally sensitive projects.

The ideal legislation to correct the lack of transparency in Investment Fund projects would require the public disclosure of Environmental Impact Assessments conducted on all new investment projects. It would also allow for a public comment period where citizens, especially those living in the affected area of the project, could voice their opinions of the project. In the case of projects already underway, a renegotiation of contracts to allow for public disclosure would be required to avoid breach of contract concerns.

If we can't have full transparency in all Investment fund projects, then OPIC should not be involved in projects that are environmentally sensitive.

While projects like oil refineries, gas and oil pipelines, chemical plants that produce hazardous or toxic materials, and large-scale logging projects may be necessary for the industrial development of developing countries, holding the US taxpayers liable for investments in projects that could pose serious environmental or health risks to local populations with no public oversight or disclosure is unacceptable.

It is OPIC's policy, as outlined in the Environmental Handbook to conduct rigorous internal Environmental Impact Assessments on all environmentally sensitive projects. Environmental impact assessments are also required by law as found in Executive Order 12114 and Public Law 99-204. However, while the assessments for insurance and finance projects are publicly disclosed, assessments on Investment Fund projects are not. Accountable government demands that these assessments be disclosed.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment and shed some light on OPIC's environmentally sensitive Investment Fund projects.

MOVING FORWARD TO PROTECT
ROADLESS AREAS IN AMERICA'S
NATIONAL FORESTS

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, the effort to protect as much as 40 million acres of roadless area throughout our National Forest System took an important step forward this week. The President has directed the National Forest Service to prepare an environmental analysis on how best to conserve and safeguard the roadless areas in numerous forests across our nation.

While approximately 60 million acres in our National Forest System remain untouched, these unspoiled areas have been left unprotected from future mining, logging, and road-building. Without the development of a science-based policy for managing roadless areas, these unspoiled lands may become susceptible to a wide variety of ecological problems. Some of the problems include: an

increased frequency of flooding and landslides; increased habitat fragmentation; increased frequency of fires as a result of access; and invasion of exotic species that displace native species.

On June 18, 1999, 168 Members of the House joined with me and Representative HINCHEY in urging the President, to start taking decisive action to protect roadless areas in all national forests from logging, mining, and other destructive activities. Over half of the Forest Service's 191 million acres are presently available for logging, mining, drilling for oil and gas, and other types of development. These scarce roadless areas provide essential habitat for fish and wildlife, protect the greatest reserves of diverse plant life, and offer our nation's people an abundant supply of clean drinking water and opportunities for outdoor recreational activities. Clearly, these natural resources must be protected.

While the current moratorium on road building in roadless areas of the Forest Service's lands provides temporary protection from further development, future management policies and protection efforts must be set in motion to safeguard these pristine areas. President Clinton's announcement today is a good step toward a national policy that will safeguard our roadless areas so that these national treasures are not lost, and can be enjoyed by future generations. Furthermore, I encourage the public to take an active role in the development of a long-term protection plan. Congress also must be ready and willing to engage in a constructive and positive debate to shape a sound new approach to the nation's forests.

RECOGNIZING A LOCAL CHAMPION—MR. JOSH WEIR

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bestow much deserved recognition to Josh Weir, a senior at Ben Davis High School located in my home town of Indianapolis, IN.

All too often we focus on negative stories regarding our youth while neglecting to praise the millions of young people across this country who are eager to face the challenges and meet the responsibilities and expectations that society places upon them. Josh Weir is one such extraordinary young man.

This past summer, Josh won two gold medals and one silver medal at the Junior Track Cycling Championships at the Indianapolis Major Taylor Velodrome. In doing so, Josh has earned the honor of being called "National Champion."

This honor did not come without hard work and the support of his parents. His preparation required him to devote countless hours in the weight room, and train hours away from home. Josh's coach, Gil Hatton, recently exclaimed, "One very positive thing about Josh Weir is that his parents are very supportive of what he does." Their support is to be commended.

In addition to his athletic accomplishments, Josh has given back to his community. Josh belongs to Top Teens of America, Inc., a nationally known service organization. As we approach the dawn of a new century, young peo-

ple such as Josh Weir will make certain a brighter future for our community, State, and country.

Mr. Speaker, though someday, Josh dreams to race for the U.S. national team and perhaps even in the 2004 Olympics, he knows that a college degree represents the ultimate trophy. By choosing this path to success, Josh is a true hero.

TRIBUTE TO VALENTIN S. KRUMOV

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my sincere condolences to the family of Valentin S. Krumov, who's life was cut tragically short in Kosova where he worked for the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNIMIK). Valentin arrived in Kosova on Monday, October 11 and was killed at 9:00 p.m. local time by a group of Albanian teenagers who brutally beat and then shot. According to police reports, Valentin had responded to a question posed to him in Serbian. Although he is a Bulgarian national, Mr. Krumov once lived in Queens, which I am proud to represent. Mr. Krumov was 38 years old and a respected scholar who received his doctorate in political science from the University of Georgia. He dedicated his adult life to the disciplines of international relations and economics, going to Kosova to help restore democracy and rebuild that war-torn land. According to the United Nations, police are still investigating this terrible and cowardly crime. I am hopeful that the perpetrators will be brought to justice soon.

Mr. Speaker, this tragedy only serves to illustrate that although the bombing has ended in Kosova, the violence has not. The United Nations has a difficult job before it and must have the resources to do it properly. Before this first session of the 106th Congress ends, I hope that we have appropriated the money necessary to help rebuild Kosova and make it safe.

RECOGNITION OF MS. CLARA DAVELER'S OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor an amazing woman, one who has bettered the lives of many people over the years, Ms. Clara Daveler. As the manager at a senior nutrition site, Ms. Daveler has been filling a real need in the community by providing nutritious, appetizing hot lunches to seniors at the Bashford Methodist Church for over 15 years. Not only does she serve, prepare, and tidy up after the meals, she does so with a smile and kind words, as the regulars, the delivery man, and her co-workers can attest. Ms. Daveler, a 76-year-old dynamo, still works 20 hours per week, and when asked about her job, says, "We always have a good time."

This October is the 25th anniversary of the Bashford Methodist Church's senior nutrition site, and to commemorate this special time, Clara's co-workers wanted to honor the one woman without whom it couldn't have happened. I commend Clara Daveler for her great contributions, and I wish her many more happy years with her friends and colleagues at the Bashford Methodist Church.

FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ANIMAL PROTECTION ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 12, 1999

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this measure to protect not only the animals involved in federal law enforcement, but also the people and institutions these animals serve.

Under this bill, individuals who commit or attempt to commit malicious acts on federal law enforcement animals will face jail sentences of one to ten years depending on the gravity of the act. This important legislation will send a message to any potential offenders that our police dogs and horses are valued for the law enforcement functions they serve, and any offenses against these animals will have serious consequences.

This is a modest step, but an important one and I urge its passage.

TRIBUTE TO RABBI STANLEY HALPERN AND RABBI MICHAEL STEVENS

HON. PETER J. VISCOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 14, 1999

Mr. VISCOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct honor to commend two of Northwest Indiana's most distinguished citizens, Rabbi Stanley Halpern and Rabbi Michael Stevens. On Sunday, October 17, 1999, Rabbis Halpern and Stevens will be honored for their exemplary and dedicated service to Northwest Indiana and to the State of Israel. Their praiseworthy efforts will be recognized at the Northwest Indiana-Israel Dinner of State, as they receive the Shema Yisrael Award. The Shema Yisrael Award is given to worthy recipients who demonstrate their dedication and outstanding service of Israel and their community.

Rabbi Stanley Halpern, a resident of Portage, Indiana, came to Temple Israel in Gary, Indiana, in 1988 from Central California where he served as the Executive Director of the Bureau of Jewish Education in Sacramento. Rabbi Halpern is very involved in several organizations, including: the Jewish Deaf Congress, the Gary Interfaith Clergy Council, and the Interfaith Alliance of Northwest Indiana. He also serves as chaplain of the Gary Police Department. Additionally, he serves on the board at the Northwest Indiana Open Housing Center, the Bio-Ethics Committee of Munster Community Hospital, the Liheyot panel of the UAHC Committee on Family Concerns, and the CJF Special Committee on Accessibility.