

The birth of the beluga is a milestone for the Shedd because the Oceanarium was built for the purpose of breeding marine mammals. The knowledge gained from the birth will provide Shedd staff with a better understanding of belugas and in turn that information will be used to help educate the public and contribute to the conservation of wild populations.

The birth of the beluga also is significant to the general beluga population as the National Marine Fisheries Service plans to list the beluga whales in Alaska's Cook Inlet as a depleted population. The 1998 Cook Inlet beluga census, counted 347. In 1994, about 675 belugas were counted; it is believed that 1,000 whales were in the inlet in 1980.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the John G. Shedd Aquarium on the successful birth and continued health of Immiayuk's beluga calf.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SMALL BUSINESS TELECOMMUTING ACT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the Small Business Telecommuting Act, a bill designed to raise awareness about telecommuting among small business employers and to encourage employers to offer telecommuting options to their employees.

In many areas of this country urban sprawl and traffic congestion are growing at alarming rates. Telecommuting surely is part of the answer to reducing traffic congestion and air pollution.

Mr. Speaker, telecommuting has many positive bi-products to which I would like to draw my colleagues' attention.

Traffic congestion: telecommuting could reduce peak commuter traffic, thereby reducing traffic congestion and air pollution.

Family wellness: telecommuting benefits the health of our communities by giving workers more time to spend with their families.

Employee productivity: studies have shown that telecommuting increases both employee productivity and morale, which in turn helps the business bottom line.

This legislation will direct the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to conduct a pilot program to raise awareness about telecommuting among small business employers. Telecommuting is quickly becoming a standard business practice. High-tech industries have employed telecommuting with great success for many years. In addition, the Federal Government has embraced telecommuting as well. This legislation will encourage and aid our nation's small business owners to embrace telecommuting.

Telecommuting in the small business community is a critically important tool, because it would allow small employers to retain valued employees with irreplaceable skills and institutional memory when their lives no longer allow them to be in the office daily.

Mr. Speaker, all around us we see remarkable strides being made in the use of technology to improve our quality of life and allow us to work more efficiently. I believe the Small Business Telecommuting Act will allow our na-

tion's small business owners to also reap the benefits of these technological strides.

H.R. 2, THE STUDENTS RESULTS ACT

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, on October 21, 1999, the U.S. House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed H.R. 2, the Students Results Act, which reauthorized funding for Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Title I provides funding to local education agencies to help educationally disadvantaged children learn the core subjects, like math and reading, and authorizes other programs to assist low-achieving students. Last revised by the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994, Title I is the largest federal elementary and secondary education grant program.

In general terms, H.R. 2 was a good bill. It provided a billion dollar increase in Title I funding, focused on holding Title I students to the same high academic standards as all students, targeted funds to the poorest communities, and it improved accountability measures. In addition H.R. 2 addressed the quality of instruction in Title I classrooms by requiring certification for all teachers and strengthening professional development opportunities.

Unfortunately, H.R. 2 also included the "Parental Notification and Consent for English Language Learners" provision. In my opinion, the "Parental Notification and Consent" language in H.R. 2 was unfair at best and discriminatory at worst. The provision would at minimum have an unjust and disproportionate impact on limited English proficient (LEP) students, of which over 70% are Hispanic.

Schools provide LEP children the necessary language support services to ensure high academic standards in addition to developing their ability to speak, read and write English. However, the proposed "Parental Notification and Consent" requirements would unjustly prohibit schools from providing services until parents provide consent or until the school meets the mandatory requirement to build a written record of attempting to obtain parental consent.

While I do not presume to know why each of those who voted against H.R. 2 did so, I believe that in the case of the Democrats, that decision was based, at least in part, on concerns regarding the "Parental Notification and Consent" provision. It was apparent to me, and likely to others, that this provision potentially violates Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which guarantees access to equal educational opportunities for LEP students.

As a parent, I must stress that I fully support and encourage enhanced parental involvement in schools and increased parental participation in their children's education. Nevertheless, I am convinced that this legislation, in its ill-advised attempt to include parental consent as part of Title I, will instead result in discriminatory practices and in limited resources being focused on bureaucratic requirements rather than on educational programs.

I did not easily arrive at my decision to oppose H.R. 2 and to make a statement regard-

ing its potentially discriminatory effect on a limited group of students. In the end though, I could not vote to validate legislation that would result in isolating LEP students for different treatment than is applied to any other group of students, while denying access for millions to important Title I educational services.

HONORING MEGAN CHARLOP

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Megan Charlop, who has been chosen as a Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leader for 1999. Each year, the Community Health Leadership Program honors ten individuals who overcome tremendous odds to expand access to health care and social services to underserved populations in their communities. This year, the program has selected Ms. Charlop for her work as the Director of the Montefiore Medical Center Lead Poisoning Prevention Project in the Bronx.

While working as a housing organizer in the 1970's Megan unwittingly exposed herself and her fetus to lead dust and became poisoned. In the early 1980's, she organized a building in deteriorating condition where the children had become lead poisoned. As a result of these experiences Megan founded the Lead Poisoning Prevention Project in 1983.

As Director of the Project, Megan has diligently advocated for resources to create the Lead Safe House, which provides transitional housing for lead poisoned children and their families while their homes are undergoing abatement. Megan also co-founded the New York City Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning, bringing together environmentalists, labor groups, social service and health providers, and parents to tackle the issues related to lead poisoning prevention. Her work with lead poisoning prevention in New York City has become a model for the nation.

And her work does not stop there. Recently, Megan has launched community health initiatives for other environmentally triggered diseases such as asthma and mercury using the model she developed for lead prevention.

Mr. Speaker, I am thrilled to recognize Megan Charlop as a 1999 Community Health Leader and I commend her for tremendous efforts to improve the health of her community and for her true leadership in the fight against lead poisoning.

TRIBUTE TO CHRIS WEAVER

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I now rise to pay tribute to the life of a friend and great civic leader, Chris Weaver. Sadly, the world lost Chris earlier this month when he died of an apparent heart attack. While mourning the passing of this great American, I would like to take this opportunity to honor the esteemed life of this great American.

A dyed-in-the-wool Republican his whole life, Chris left an indelible mark on the Pueblo community as a city councilman. As an at-large council member, Weaver was widely acclaimed for his leadership and vision on a wide range of issues, including HARP, the Pueblo Convention Center, and increased benefits for retired firemen. In his time on the council, Chris served with great distinction leaving a lasting legacy that will long benefit Pueblo.

At age 6, Chris moved to Pueblo with his parents, the late Dr. John Weaver and his wife Frances, from Concordia, Kansas. Following his graduation from Centennial High School in 1966, Chris studied briefly at the Colorado School of Mines and later transferred to the University of Southern Colorado where he graduated in 1982.

A certified public accountant, Chris was an active member in the Kiwanis Club, the Private Industry Council, and the National Association of Accountants.

I am hopeful that Chris' family—including his wife Mary, his children Andrew, Donald, and Jennifer, his mother Frances, and his siblings Ross, Matthew and Allison Swift—will all find solace in the remarkable life that he led. Indeed, like myself and the many others that counted him a friend, Chris' family should find peace in the knowledge each is a better person for having known him.

THE EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 1999

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Emergency Food Assistance Enhancement Act of 1999. My bill increases TEFAP commodity purchases from \$100 million to \$125 million in an attempt to help food banks meet the needs of their communities.

It is unfortunate, Mr. Speaker, that there is a need for food banks. Even though our farmers and ranchers are the most productive and efficient in the world, the need for food banks continues. Food banks often meet the needs of their communities by managing donations from the Government and the private sector. Most Government donations are the product of the Emergency Food Assistance Program. It is a unique program that has the ability to provide nutritious domestic agriculture products to needy Americans while at the same time providing support to the agriculture community. In the welfare reform bill, Congress made TEFAP commodity purchases mandatory because of the integral role this program has in the provisions of food assistance to needy families.

This program is a quick fix, something to get families through tough times. It gives them the support they need, but it doesn't ensnare them into a cycle of dependency for which other Federal assistance programs are infamous. TEFAP purchases also provide much needed support to the agriculture community. While other food assistance programs are much larger, TEFAP has a more direct impact for agriculture producers, while at the same time providing food for those in need.

The Balanced Budget Act of 1997 included hundreds of millions of dollars for Employment

and Training Program aimed at those able bodied adults without dependents (ABAWD) whose eligibility for the Food Stamp Program was restricted by a work requirement in the Welfare Reform Act of 1996. The money is dedicated to training programs that keep any ABAWD on the food stamp rolls if they participate. Several hearings and reports have said that the money is going unspent because very few are taking advantage of the programs. At the same time, food banks are reporting an increase in demand from the same demographic group.

Why not put the money where the need is? Annually the Secretary reviews the States employment and training programs and allocates the money he considers appropriate and equitable. If a State doesn't use the money allocated to them, the Secretary can reallocate the money to another State. My bill does nothing to change or restrict that authority. My bill simply allows the Secretary of Agriculture to spend up to \$25 million of unobligated employment and training money on TEFAP commodity purchases.

Mr. Speaker, I am hopeful that the Emergency Food Assistance Enhancement Act will enjoy resounding and rapid support from the full House of Representatives. It is important that we increase commodity purchases for this important program.

TRIBUTE TO MS. JILL COCHRAN

HON. JACK QUINN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I want to join Chairman STUMP and Ranking Member EVANS in acknowledging and saying thank you to Ms. Jill Cochran, long-time Democratic staff director for the Subcommittee on Benefits, who will retire next month following 25 years of dedicated service to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Jill's contributions to the enactment of legislation such as the Montgomery GI bill, on which she worked with our distinguished former chairman for 7 years, vocational rehabilitation, veterans employment and training, homeless veterans, and transition assistance issues—just to name a few—I believe, are unsurpassed.

Jill personifies unselfish public service in her commitment to America's sons and Daughters who have served our Nation. We'll miss her compassion, her great spirit of cooperation, her expertise, and most of all—her exceptional leadership.

Jill, our kindest wishes and godspeed.

IN HONOR OF JOHN A. KAY

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life and memory of a great American, Mr. John Kay. John was a constituent of mine from Rio Rancho, NM, who passed away in October. He was a personal friend and a strong advocate for vet-

erans, John had a very distinguished career, having retired from both the U.S. Army and the Central Intelligence Agency. He loved our country and was very proud to have dedicated his life to serving it.

During his military service, John served with distinction in WWII and in the Korean conflict. In recalling his own military career, he was very proud of his service during WWII where he served with the infamous 9th Reconnaissance troop of the 9th Infantry Division. A unit that fought courageously in virtually every major campaign of the European theater.

What made John so special was his open hearted and generous nature. After his retirement from the CIA, he dedicated himself to informing his fellow veterans about the issues important to them. Specifically, he was the author of a monthly column in a local newspaper dedicated to helping veterans.

Mr. Speaker, John Kay was a true gentleman who constantly searched for new proposals and reforms in an attempt to help his community. He was always open minded and he was always generous in his assistance to others. He will be sorely missed by myself and by his community.

ADLER PLANETARIUM AND THE MARS MILLENNIUM PROJECT

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 18, 1999

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to recognize one of Chicago's premier institutions, the Adler Planetarium and Astronomy Museum, as they kick-off their contribution to the Mars Millennium Project and celebrate the grand reopening of their landmark building on October 1st.

Located on Chicago's beautiful lakefront, the Adler was founded in 1930 by Max Adler "to be the foremost institution for the interpretation of the exploration of the Universe to the broadest possible audience." To help fulfill this mission, the Adler has become actively involved in the Mars Millennium Project using its StarRider™ Theater Mars Millennium Show as the centerpiece of their contribution.

The Mars Millennium Project is an official White House Millennium Council Youth Initiative, challenging students across the nation to design a community yet-to-be-imagined—for the planet Mars. This national arts, sciences and technology education initiative is guided by the U.S. Department of Education, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and its Jet Propulsion Lab, the National Endowment for the Arts, the J. Paul Getty and others.

The world's first StarRider™ Theater is a 3D interactive virtual reality experience, which will transport visitors on a voyage to Mars and allows the audience to participate in developing a viable Martian colony. The audience flies over Mars, picks a place for their colony and then designs the architecture, cultural icons and symbols that will make the colony unique.

The Adler is working with the Illinois State Board of Education and the Chicago Public Schools Teachers Academy for Professional Development to involve classrooms from across Illinois in the Mars Millennium Project.