

Government of Guam. It had only five employees who operated out of an old Butler building in Mangilao. In 1974, the 12th Guam Legislature passed P.L. 12-194, establishing the Guam Educational Telecommunications Corporation, a nonprofit public corporation to operate KGTF. In 1997 KGTF won the Guam Developmental Disabilities Council's Media Representative of the Year award for its outstanding services and sensitivity to Guam's disabled community. In 1999, the Micronesia Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists awarded the station its Professional Achievement and Performance Award for outstanding community service.

Today, KGTF's annual budget is a little over \$1 million. The funding is provided by the Government of Guam, the federal Community Service Grant and private donations. Through good economic times and bad, the people of Guam have never allowed KGTF to sign off the air. This, I believe, is an indication of its value to the community, to a desire it fulfills, and to a service it renders. In 1991, the station purchased a remote broadcast van and in 1994 constructed a large station facility, both of which were funded entirely by contributions.

I am proud to congratulate KGTF's Board of Trustees, Chairman Carlos Baretto, Vice Chairwoman Joleen Flores, Dan Tinsay and Ariel Dimalanta, on the quality of their guidance and leadership. And I gratefully commend General Manager Ginger Underwood, Operations Manager Benny Flores, Engineer Mesegei Diaz, Administrative Officer Lorraine Hernandez, Accounting Technician Tina Poblete, Program Coordinator Dois Gallo, Program Assistant Vickey Manglona, Development Director Sonia Suobiron, Development Assistant Mary Perez, Production Manager John Muna, Studio Supervisor Edmond Cheung, Broadcast Technician Rodney Sapp, Camera Operators Mike Lizama, Curb Crisostomo and Shingpe Wang, and Master Control Operators Jason Fernandez, Reynald La Puebla and Seigfred Cabanday for making it all happen.

Si Yu'os ma'ase, hamyo todos. Maolek che'cho'-miyo para i taotao-ta. Long live KGTF!

ESTUARY RESTORATION ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2000

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, the decline in estuary habitats nation-wide has been well-documented in the scientific and resource management literature for over 30 years. Worse, we are now finally seeing how ruinous this habitat loss has been to our coastal environment through degraded water quality, depleted commercial and recreational fisheries, and destructive shoreline erosion and subsidence.

Within my own district, the baylands provide some form of food, shelter, or other benefits to over 500 species of fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals. In addition, there are almost as many species of invertebrates in the ecosystem as all the other animals combined. This brings the total number of animal species

that use or call the baylands ecosystem home to over one thousand. Unfortunately, this area has lost over 95 percent of its tidal wetlands and continues to be besieged by invasive and aquatic nuisance species.

These impacts are real. Fortunately, we have an opportunity to begin the effort to reverse that trend. H.R. 1775, the Estuary Restoration Act, would provide a reasonable, balanced approach to both preserve remaining estuarine habitats and to facilitate effective, locally-driven estuary restoration.

I commend the Chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Mr. SHUSTER, and the senior ranking Democrat member, Mr. OBERSTAR, as well as the Chairman of the Committee on Resources, Mr. YOUNG, for their collaborative efforts and co-operation in developing this compromise legislation. I would also like to thank the bill's sponsor, Mr. GILCHREST, for his energy and persistence in pursuing this worthwhile and important bill.

I am glad to see that the bill will include as eligible restoration plans any Federal or State plan developed with the participation of public and private stakeholders. This will mean that many innovative, collaborative plans developed for the San Francisco Bay estuary, such as the Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals Plan, the San Pablo Baylands Restoration Plan, and the Suisun Marsh Protection Plan will become eligible for project funding.

I am also pleased that non-governmental organizations (NGOs) will be eligible to participate in the program. NGOs, such as Save the Bay and The Bay Institute in the Bay Area, embody the locally driven focus of this legislation. In addition, NGOs contribute valuable matching funds, expertise and local support—all factors critical to the long-term success of estuary restoration projects. I share the concerns raised by my colleague, Mr. OBERSTAR, that the burden placed on these organizations to participate might be excessive. There is little need for further restrictions on NGO participation because the stringent review process within the bill will ensure that only the most outstanding projects are selected and funded. I hope that this will be addressed in conference with the Senate.

I appreciate the willingness of the bill's sponsors to direct the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) as the manager of monitoring data gathered within this program. NOAA has impressive scientific expertise and superb competence in environmental data management. In addition, NOAA programs such as the National Estuarine Research Reserves and Coastal Services Center, will be useful conduits for dissemination of estuary restoration data to coastal resource managers nationwide.

The establishment of an Estuary Habitat Restoration Council within the bill is of paramount importance due to the largely experimental and innovative nature of many estuary restoration techniques. The science of estuary restoration, at present, is imprecise. It is important to recognize that we will have to learn from our mistakes; undoubtedly, not every project will meet expectations. I had hoped to include a more rigorous post-construction monitoring and evaluation process in the bill. In its absence, the Corps would be wise to work closely with the Council to prioritize and select projects based upon successes validated in the field.

In lieu of the recent criticism that has been directed at the Corps, I retain some reservations about the wisdom of Congress authorizing the Corps to take on such a significant expansion of its mission at this time. I am sure we have all been closely following the series of articles that have appeared in the Washington Post this week. Since its inception, the Corps has launched tens of billions of dollars worth of public works projects around the country, many of which have severely damaged the environment because of a lack of oversight.

I am encouraged by the efforts of several colleagues to address this issue, notably Congressman RON KIND, Congresswoman TAMMY BALDWIN and Congressman EARL BLUMENAUER. Public works projects will always be needed, but at the same time we also need to ensure the protection of the environment. Environmental considerations should be taken as seriously as economic ones when analyzing projects. Certainly, the Corps should not approve projects with severe ecological consequences.

Once again, I strongly support this legislation.

BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL WINNER

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 18, 2000

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Twin Peaks Middle School in Poway and its leaders, Principal Sue Foerster and Superintendent Dr. Bob Reeves. Twin Peaks has been designated by the U.S. Department of Education as a National Blue Ribbon School for 2000. I am proud to inform my colleagues that my district had an amazing record of 11 schools selected for that prestigious honor this year. I would also like to note that the Academy of Our Lady of Peace right outside my district in San Diego County was also named a Blue Ribbon School. I applaud the educators, students, and communities in each of the San Diego County schools who pulled together in pursuit of educational excellence.

Blue Ribbon Schools are recognized as some of the Nation's most successful institutions, and they are exemplary models for achieving educational excellence throughout the Nation. Not only have they demonstrated excellence in academic leadership, teaching and teacher development and school curriculum, but they have demonstrated exceptional levels of community and parental involvement, high student achievement levels and strong safety and discipline.

After schools are nominated by State education agencies for the Blue Ribbon award, they undergo a rigorous review of their programs, plans, and activities. That is followed with visits by educational experts for evaluation. Ultimately, those schools which best demonstrate strong leadership, clear vision and mission, excellent teaching and curriculum, policies and practices that keep the schools safe for learning, family involvement, and evidence of high standards are selected for this prestigious award. I am pleased that they are now receiving the national recognition they are due.

As school and community leaders head to Washington for the Department of Education awards ceremony, I want to thank them once again for a job well done. More satisfying than any award, these leaders will have the lifelong satisfaction of having provided the best education possible and a better future for thousands of children. I am proud of what they have achieved, and want to share their achievements so that more people benefit from their accomplishments. I ask that a summary of Twin Peaks Middle School's superior work be included in the RECORD:

Twin Peaks Middle School is in the city of Poway, a suburban community of about 45,000 located 25 miles northeast of San Diego, California. Known as "The City in the Country," Poway maintains a rural feeling where horse trails are common and the annual rodeo is an important event. Retail trade, service industry, and government jobs presently provide the greatest opportunity for employment in Poway, although most of their residents travel to other areas of the county to work. The dedicated Twin Peaks staff exemplifies its vision of providing an excellent education for all students by making a conscious effort to continuously enhance and enrich the culture and conditions in the school so that teachers can teach more effectively, leading to students who become lifelong learners. This focused effort to strive for excellence is shared by teachers, parents, students, and community members who work together to create outstanding programs that maximize the potential of each student while acknowledging individual learning styles.

Students feel this enthusiasm for learning and want to be at Twin Peaks, as shown by the average attendance rate of over 99 percent. Students maintain an active voice in perpetuating these traditions through the Associated Student Body that provides Friday spirit days, barbecues, dances, Teacher Appreciation Day, and Harbor Cruise excursions. Other yearly events include ski trips, Women's Day speakers, Shadow-A-Student Day, the geography bee and spelling bee, Sixth Grade Olympics, sixth grade camp, a seventh grade trip to Medieval Times, band concerts, and choral and drama productions. Visitors frequently comment on the positive atmosphere that pervades the campus. Twin Peaks Middle School truly is a wonderful place to teach and learn.

HONORING CATHERINE CATCHINGS

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 18, 2000

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to rise before you today to pay tribute to Ms. Catherine Catchings, the Illustrious Commandress of Oman Court No. 132. The Daughters of Isis, Ancient and Accepted Free Masons, based in Flint, Michigan, will honor Ms. Catchings at their 40th annual Commandress Ball on October 21.

Catherine Catchings moved from Alabama to Flint, Michigan, in 1957. She joined Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church and has maintained an active membership, working with the choir, Young Matrons Auxiliary, and the Willing Workers Club.

Because of Catherine's long standing dedication to enhance the quality of life for others, she began a long career with Hurley Medical Center, leading to her recent retirement. During this time, she also became President of AFSCME Local 825. Under Catherine's leadership, Local 825 made community service a key focus. Community Service became an established as a standing committee of the union, and members participated in various projects benefiting the needy. Catherine has worked with the United Way, Red Cross blood drives, and the Children's Miracle Network Run for Children. As a member of the American Legion Auxiliary, she works diligently on behalf of our area's veterans. She is involved with the Veterans Hospital Project, writes letters and purchases gifts for the veterans' families, and distributes information on such subjects as bone marrow research and donor registration.

As Worthy Matron of Royal Star Chapter 27, Order of the Eastern Star, Prince Hall Affiliation, Catherine established a Scholarship Fund, organized donation drives on behalf of the Flint Shelter, Transition House, and Carriage Town Mission. As Youth Sponsor for the Crescent Moon Youth Fraternity, she helps create future community leaders through nursing homes visits and Christmas caroling. She is truly a tremendous role model, and many people in the Flint community have had their lives enriched by her unselfish acts.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my fellow Members of Congress to join me in honoring the Illustrious Commandress, Ms. Catherine Catchings. Her devotion to making this nation a better place to live should reinforce our strong commitment to our communities. We owe a debt of gratitude to Catherine, her husband, and their two sons.

IN HONOR OF CATHY GONZALEZ, UNITED WAY'S CONGRESSWOMAN MARY T. NORTON MEMORIAL AWARD WINNER

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 18, 2000

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Cathy Gonzalez for winning the United Way's Congresswoman Mary T. Norton Memorial Award. The award, which was initiated by United Way of Hudson County in 1990, recognizes those who exhibit a deep commitment to human service as exemplified by Congresswoman Norton during her 13 terms in the House of Representatives (1925–1950). The Congresswoman was a forward-thinker who advocated for government action to help address issues we are still grappling with today, such as day care, fair employment practices, health care for veterans, and inclusion of women in high levels of government service.

Cathy Gonzalez is the vice president of Human Resources for the Pershing Division of Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette Securities Corporation. In her role at Pershing, Mrs. Gonzalez is responsible for leading many of the firm's community relations efforts. She works with the Jersey City Board of Education to provide meaningful school-to-work opportunities for local students. Under her leadership,

employees of Pershing participate in a variety of charitable activities.

Ms. Gonzalez is vice chairperson of the United Way of Hudson County and vice president of the Board of Managers of the Hudson Unit of the American Cancer Society. She has received recognition from Gateway II, Van Vorst Block Association, Ferris High School, and New York Blood Services.

Pershing, a leading provider of global correspondent financial services to over 650 financial institutions, moved its corporate headquarters to Jersey City in 1989. Pershing has established an outstanding relationship with the community by actively practicing its corporate value of social responsibility.

Ms. Gonzalez was born and raised in Jersey City, NJ. She holds a master's degree in health administration and began her career working for Christ Hospital, where she initiated volunteer efforts in the community.

Cathy Gonzalez embodies the life work of Congresswoman Mary T. Norton. On behalf of my colleagues in the House of Representatives, I congratulate her for her outstanding service to the community and for carrying on the work of Congresswoman Mary T. Norton.

TRIBUTE TO NELSON FAIRBANKS

HON. MARK FOLEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 18, 2000

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, this past summer marked the end of long and distinguished career for a leader of Florida's agriculture and business industries. Our dear friend, Mr. J. Nelson Fairbanks retired from his post with the U.S. Sugar Corporation.

In 1966, the charm and beauty of inviting Clewiston, Florida lured Nelson from the family farm in Louisiana. Twelve years later, he would join U.S. Sugar as vice president of corporate development. Since those first days, Nelson later took over the helm as CEO and for more than a decade guided the company and its employees through unprecedented change and growth.

By molding U.S. Sugar, Nelson also shaped the industry and his community as well.

In today's quick-fix, high-tech, "dot-com" world, Nelson and the people of U.S. Sugar truly understand the meaning of a hard day's work. They are the wholesome hospitable people that take a deep pride in laboring hard to feed America's families.

The community will indeed miss Nelson's leadership and vision. Yet, we are comforted in the knowledge that regardless where retirement takes Nelson, love for the people of Clewiston and U.S. Sugar runs thick in his veins like molasses.

THE PRAIRIE ROSE CHAPTER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION SALUTES CONSTITUTION WEEK

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 18, 2000

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, the week of September 17–23 has been officially designated