

and represents America's 2.1 million service-connected disabled veterans.

The DAV was formed in 1920 when local self help groups that had formed to provide support for the more than 300,000 disabled World War I troops who returned home from European battlefields merged into one national organization. The national organization received its Congressional Charter in 1932.

Forty local veterans helped organize and charter Chapter 81 in 1950. Over the years, its membership has grown to more than 900 veterans.

The annual Forget-Me-Not Drive is Chapter 81's primary community activity. The Forget-Me-Not Drive commemorates images brought back by soldiers who fought in World War I of flowers growing among the graves of their fallen comrades. The flower became the symbol of both those who died in battle and those who came home bearing the scars of war. Proceeds from the drive are used by Chapter 81 to provide incidentals to disabled veterans who are hospitalized or living in the community.

During the past fifty years, chapter 81 has also hosted special events for disabled children and for residents of the Veterans Home of California.

Chapter 81 has also had a very active Ladies Auxiliary. They hosted the club's bi-monthly family potlucks and continue to be involved in the club's annual Christmas Wish List Program for children and in distributing gifts at the Veterans Home.

Chapter 81 also actively works with its elected representatives to make sure that our service men and women who have been wounded in battle are not re-injured by peacetime apathy.

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate that we acknowledge and honor today this veterans' organization and the men and women who have given so much for our country.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO AMEND THE ALASKA NATIVE CLAIMS SETTLEMENT ACT

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 13, 2000

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that would address several matters of concern to Alaska Natives through an amendment to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA).

As my colleagues know, ANCSA was enacted in 1971, stimulated by the need to address Native land claims as well as the desire to clear the way for the construction of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline and thereby provide our country with access to the petroleum resources of Alaska's North Slope. As the years pass, issues arise which require amending the Act. The Resources Committee as a matter of course routinely considers such amendments and brings them before the House.

Consequently, I am introducing this bill containing several such amendments to ANCSA in order to facilitate having its provisions circulated during the upcoming Congressional recess among Congress, the Administration and the State of Alaska for review and consideration.

This bill has six provisions. One provision would clarify the liability for contaminated lands. The clarification of contaminated land would declare that no person acquiring interest in land under this Act shall be liable for the costs of removal or remedial action, any damages, or any third party liability arising out or as a result of any contamination on that land at the time the land was acquired under this Act.

Section 3 of the bill amends the Act further to allow equal access to Alaska Native Veterans who served in the military or other armed services during the Viet Nam war. Alaska Natives have faithfully answered the call of duty when asked to serve in the armed services. In fact, American Indians and Alaska Natives generally have the highest record of answering the call to duty.

Under the Native Allotment Act, Alaska Natives were allowed to apply for lands which they traditionally used as fish camps, berry picking camps or hunting camps. However, many of our Alaska Natives answered the call to duty and served in the services during the Viet Nam war and were unable to apply for their Native allotment. This provision allows them to apply for their Native allotments and would expand the dates to include the full years of the Viet Nam war. The original dates recommended by the Administration only allowed the dates January 1, 1969 to December 31, 1971. Our Alaska Native veterans should not be penalized for serving during the entire dates of the Viet Nam conflict. This provision corrects that inequity by expanding the dates to reflect all the years of the Viet Nam war—August 5, 1964 to May 7, 1975.

The settlement trust provision of ANCSA presently indicates that the assets placed in a settlement trust are not subject to any creditor action other than those by the creditors of the settlement trust itself. Federal law is unclear whether the beneficiary's interests in the trust can be subject to attachment, etc., by their creditors. The legislative history from the 1988 amendments specifically indicates that a "spendthrift clause" could be included in the trust agreement for a settlement trust, but does not specify what the scope of such a provision could be. Normally, under general trust law, a spendthrift clause operates to limit the circumstances in which creditors can reach a beneficiary's trust interest. Alaska law (A.S. 34.40.110) expressly recognizes the validity of a spendthrift clause for trusts established on or after April 2, 1997, but does not expressly authorize a spendthrift clause for trusts established prior to this date.

All this uncertainty places the Trustees in a difficult legal position under present law in deciding whether to honor creditor levies against beneficiary interests in a settlement issue. Trustees are required as fiduciaries to protect the beneficiaries' rights, but are also required to honor creditor actions if those are valid under applicable law. At least one court case is now pending before the United States District Court for Alaska to determine whether the trustees of a settlement trust must honor a levy by the State of Alaska with regard to various beneficiaries' unpaid child support obligations.

By contrast, since 1971 section 7(h) of ANCSA has clearly restricted most creditor actions as to Native corporation stock. Creditors are prohibited from levies and other similar actions against Settlement Common Stock, ex-

cept to the extent that a court has authorized creditor action with regard to unpaid child support. Thus, child support levies are valid against Settlement Common Stock as long as a court has previously authorized such actions.

The proposed provision removes the uncertainty as to levies against the beneficial interests in a settlement trust by clarifying that such levies and other creditor actions may occur in the same circumstances that such levies and actions could occur with regard to the stock in a Native corporation. Not only does this confirm the trust procedure to a procedure already known to the personnel within Native corporations (who often provide the day to day administration of the trusts), but it also follows logically because the source of the settlement trust assets was the Native corporation.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to the provisions which are currently included in the legislation I am introducing today which amends the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, it is my understanding that several other provisions are in the process of being drafted and/or negotiated with relevant parties. If those provisions are ready to be considered at the time of committee mark-up of this bill, then I anticipate that they would be offered for inclusion in the bill at that time.

Again, I am introducing this bill today to facilitate its provisions circulated and reviewed during the April recess by the Department of the Interior, the State of Alaska and Alaska Natives.

EARTH DAY

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 13, 2000

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, Earth Day serves to remind us all that environmental issues know no political bounds and affect all of the people, plants, and animals of the world community. It is essential that the policies our government enacts, and the personal activities we undertake reflect our profound concern for safeguarding the Earth.

From combating global climate change to protecting threatened species to providing clean water, we have a duty to act locally and globally to protect the environment for our present and future generations.

Saving the planet may seem to be an insurmountable task, but in order for our children to have a brighter future we must commit ourselves to an environmental policy which seeks to establish a clean, safe, and productive environment.

The 106th Congress is working to preserve and protect our Nation's open spaces by reinvigorating the land and water conservation fund. Designed to protect our nation's natural heritage, the land and water conservation fund is a vital program which has saved thousands of acres of forest, miles of river, and many of America's mountain ranges. In the face of pollution and urban sprawl, the 106th Congress has responded by looking to preserve our nation's greenways.

We must not forget that the air we breathe is our most precious resource. Americans can clearly see, smell and feel the difference that

pollution has made in their lives. As a strong supporter of the Clean Air Act, I fully understand the need for clean air standards. By encouraging innovation, cooperation, and the development of new technologies for pollution reduction, these standards build upon the spirit of ingenuity that is the foundation of America's leadership in the world.

As chairman of the International Relations Committee, I understand the importance of using our leadership in the United States to assist other nations in developing and maintaining successful environmental programs.

I personally have led efforts to protect whales from commercial hunting and to protect African elephants from the deadly effect of the international ivory trade. I have also been in the forefront in bringing greater awareness to the linkages between refugees, world hunger and national security to environmental degradation. Moreover, if we do not assist in the survival of indigenous and tribal people, their wealth of traditional knowledge and their important habitats will no longer be available for the rest of mankind.

Earth Day is a successful vehicle and incentive for ongoing environmental education, action and change. Earth Day activities address worldwide environmental concerns and offer opportunities for individuals and communities to focus on their local environmental problems.

During the 106th Congress, I worked with the New York State's Governor Pataki and the citizens of New York's 20th Congressional District to save thousands of acres of precious lands, such as Sterling Forest, the Gaisman Estate, and Clausland Mountain. I have requested funding for the Hudson Valley National Heritage Area, which would help preserve the history, culture and traditions of this beautiful region. I am also proud to note that our 20th Congressional District of New York is home to the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, one of the country's leading climate study institutions, which I have been pleased to support.

Earth Day is a powerful catalyst for people to make a difference toward a clean, healthy, prosperous future. We cannot continue with the attitude that someone else will clean up after us. We need to take care of our world today. I cannot think of a better way and a better day to commit to our environmental concerns than Earth Day. I salute all who observe Earth Day in all ways large and small.

TRIBUTE TO COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR GEORGE E. CUTBIRTH

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 13, 2000

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that Command Sergeant Major George E. Cutbirth is retiring after 30 years of exemplary service in the United States Army. He has served his country with dignity, honor, and integrity.

Command Sergeant Major Cutbirth is a native of Southwest Missouri. He graduated from Hurley High School in 1969 and entered the Army in April 1970. He attended Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. He has held positions of increasing responsibility during his ca-

reer, to include: Squad Leader; Repair Control Supervisor; Platoon Sergeant; Drill Sergeant; Senior Drill Sergeant; TAC Sergeant; Instructor; First Sergeant; and Battalion Command Sergeant Major. He has also served as the Commandant, Ordnance Noncommissioned Officer Academy, Command Sergeant Major Ordnance Center and School, Ordnance Corps Regiment Sergeant Major and Command Sergeant Major Combined Arms Support Command. Currently, Command Sergeant Major Cutbirth is serving as the Command Sergeant Major for the United States Army Materiel Command. He is the first ordnance soldier to hold that position.

Command Sergeant Major Cutbirth has served in a variety of overseas and stateside assignments. They include tours in Okinawa, Vietnam, Italy, Korea and the Federal Republic of Germany. He also served in Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Kuwait during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. Within the United States, he has been assigned to: Fort Campbell, Kentucky; Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri; Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland; and Fort Lee, Virginia.

Command Sergeant Major Cutbirth is a graduate of the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy, the 3rd Army Noncommissioned Officer Academy, the Drill Sergeant Academy, and numerous technical and functional courses. He also earned an Associate of Arts degree from Columbia College, Missouri, and a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Maryland.

Command Sergeant Major Cutbirth's awards and decorations include: the Legion of Merit with two oak leaf clusters, the Bronze Star; the Meritorious Service Medal with two oak leaf clusters; the Army Commendation Medal; and Army Achievement Medal; the Good Conduct Medal (tenth award); the National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Service Star; the Vietnam Service Medal; the Southwest Asia Service Medal; the Humanitarian Service Medal; the Overseas Service Ribbon with numeral three; the Army Service Ribbon, the Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon with numeral four; the Vietnam Campaign Medal; the Kuwait Liberation Medal; the Master Parachutist Badge; the Drill Sergeant Badge; the Mechanic Badge; and the Belgian Parachutist Badge.

Mr. Speaker, Command Sergeant Major Cutbirth deserves the thanks and praise of the nation that he had faithfully served for so long. I know the Members of the House will join me in wishing him, his wife of 30 years, Catherine, and his three children, Laurie, Paul and Matthew, all the best in the years ahead.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 13, 2000

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote No. 114, I was unavoidably detained on official business. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

IN CELEBRATION OF THE 110TH
ANNIVERSARY OF BETH EDEN
BAPTIST CHURCH, OAKLAND, CA

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 13, 2000

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, today, I celebrate the 110th anniversary of the establishment of the Beth Eden Baptist Church in Oakland, California. This milestone will be commemorated from April 9 through May 21, 2000.

The theme of this celebration is taken from Ephesians 6:10-18 which reads: "By example-maintaining our armor of God and hold fast to the principles of righteousness, perseverance, faithfulness, salvation and spirit, which are in the word of God."

Beth Eden is the oldest Black Baptist Church in Alameda County. Founded on April 20, 1890, its first pastor was Rev. George Gray. Since 1890, the church has flourished following its theme "A Legacy of Faith."

Since its founding with Rev. Gray, Beth Eden has had eleven additional pastors, including Rev. Robert Alexander McQuinn, Rev. James Allen (who later founded Oakland's Allen Temple Baptist Church), Rev. John Dwelle, Rev. John Coylar (the Church's only Caucasian minister), Rev. John Allen, Rev. James Dennis (who later founded the North Oakland Baptist Church), Rev. Francis Walker, Rev. Samuel Hawkins, Rev. Paul Hubbard, Rev. Alvin Dones and Rev. Dr. Gillette James, the current pastor.

For more than a century, Beth Eden has been a West Oakland landmark of faith, activity and commitment to building a stronger community. These activities include building senior housing, holding interfaith Thanksgiving services with local churches, establishing a Missionary Society, creating SHARE, a discount food program, and helping to create the Black Adoption Placement and Research Center.

Beth Eden Baptist Church is truly a source of civic pride and a valuable resource for the community. I proudly join the church's members, friends and neighbors in saluting and honoring the history and spirit of this great church.

HONORING WILLIAM C. "BILL"
COLEMAN IN RECEIVING THE J.
ROBERT LADD COMMUNITY
SERVICE AWARD AND THE 2000
SERVICE TO MANKIND AWARD

HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 13, 2000

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize William C. Coleman in receiving the J. Robert Ladd Community Service Award and the Service to Mankind Award from the Lebanon Valley, Sertoma Club.

Bill has made an incredible difference in the community of Lebanon, Pennsylvania. He has been a regular volunteer at the Lebanon Rescue Mission since 1947. He has served on the board of directors, taught Sunday School and has presided as the executive director of the Rescue Mission. Bill has dedicated his life to