

Listen to the Cries of the Children National Campaign 2000. Hear O'Israel International, Inc. developed the campaign to strengthen the unity of families and enhance public awareness of the negative effects that alcohol and drug abuse, family violence, child abuse, and gang activity have on children and their families across Houston.

Mr. Speaker, the following resolution approved May 11th by the Mayor and Houston City Council demonstrates the high regard for Hear O'Israel in our community.

[From the Hear O'Israel International, May 22, 2000]

LISTEN TO THE CRIES OF THE CHILDREN  
NATIONAL CAMPAIGN 2000

A non-profit, non-denominational organization, Hear O'Israel International, Inc. developed its Listen to the Cries of the Children National Campaign to strengthen the unity of families and enhance public awareness of the negative effects that alcohol and drug abuse, family violence, child abuse, and gang activity have on children and their families. The campaign has heard the cries of the children and parents, young and old, who are crying out due to neglect; physical challenges; broken homes; or lack of adequate food, shelter, clothing, and health care. The Listen to the Cries of the Children National Campaign 2000 will promote "... wisdom, knowledge, understanding, and forgiveness that will break them out of their prisons, visible or invisible."

As part of its ongoing effort to help the suffering, Hear O'Israel International, Inc. has conducted community-oriented programs, campaigning with former gang members who were shot and, after becoming quadriplegic, are presenting themselves as physical evidence to reinforce the negative consequences of gang involvement and experimentation with drugs and alcohol. As a part of this year's campaign, Hear O'Israel International, Inc. will call for ten seconds of silence at noon C.S.T. every day throughout the year 2000, in an effort to bridge cultural boundaries and unify a response to hear and Listen to the Cries of the Children and to "stop violence and have mercy, love and compassion for our fellow man; to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and the hearts of the children to their fathers, linking and strengthening the connection that should be present between every parent, child, American, and all around the world."

The Mayor and the City Council of the City of Houston do hereby salute Hear O'Israel International, Inc. for its efforts to improve and enhance the quality of life for our children, and extend best wishes for continued success.

Approved by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Houston this 11th day of May, 2000, A.D.

THE CERRO GRANDE  
COMPENSATION ACT

**HON. TOM UDALL**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 25, 2000*

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, twenty-one days ago the National Park Service in the Bandelier National Monument initiated a prescribed burn located near Los Alamos, New Mexico. Despite adverse and unpredictable weather conditions, the Park Service elected to ignite this fire.

As all of you are aware, control of that fire was quickly lost resulting in the destruction of

over 200 homes and over 44,000 acres of land. Although now under control, the fire continues to burn today.

The legislation titled "The Cerro Grande Compensation Act" would expeditiously compensate those individuals who have suffered losses as a direct result of this fire. Specifically, this bill would compensate individuals, businesses, homes, public buildings, and Native American tribes for personal injuries and property losses sustained as a result of this tragedy.

This legislation is only a first step in an attempt to make these victims whole again. Particularly those who lost everything in the fire and have a long road ahead after recovering from their losses.

I will continue to work with the New Mexico delegation and the Clinton Administration to see that a plan is quickly put in place to compensate the victims of the Cerro Grande fire.

Through this painful experience I am confident that we as Members of Congress and the Federal Government will continue to show compassion and understanding to those who have been affected by this disaster, and do everything we can to make them whole.

TIME TO REORGANIZE THE U.S.  
FOREST SERVICE

**HON. JOE SKEEN**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 25, 2000*

Mr. SKEEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that is long overdue and desperately needed. My legislation, the 2000 U.S. Forest Service Organization Reform bill is simple legislation. Under this proposal the current Regional Offices of the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) would be eliminated. In the terms of organization structure they would be replaced by state USFS offices. Each state would have a state director, just as several other agencies within the U.S. Department of Agriculture operate. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), in the Department of the Interior also is organized in this manner.

Authority would be granted for the establishment of up to six technical support centers as well as allowing the USFS to have multi-state directors where the Federal forest presence is minor. The Forest Service office for a state would be responsible for the administration of National Forest System lands within the state.

I have come to the conclusion that I can no longer wait for the USFS to do the right thing. I can no longer wait for them to solve their management problems. I can no longer wait to see our forests suffer from neglect, mismanagement and misuse. This administration's record on addressing the major issues facing our forests on these issues is dismal. Reinventing government in the USFS today means that nobody is in charge. It means forest plans that nobody can understand. It means lawsuits and court decisions that destroy people's livelihoods and damage their families irreparably. And now it means catastrophic fires that cost millions of dollars and endangered the life and property of our citizens that live in and near our forests.

USFS state offices will be the first step in bringing accountability into this agency of government. This office will be closer to the peo-

ple in the state. The Director will interface directly and often with state officials, local government and concerned citizens. The Director will be accountable for what happens in the forest of the respective states. No longer would the USFS be able to hide in their regional offices. No longer would they be able to ignore problems in the respective states. The BLM manages more land than the USFS. The BLM planning program has been a model of unbridled success when compared to the disastrous Forest Service process. Part of the reason for this success is having a more responsive State office.

I would add at this point I have met numerous excellent USFS employees and I have been continually puzzled as to why these good people cannot make this agency work? Why, year after year, do we have study after study that talks about the mismanagement? I have finally decided that it is the structure of the USFS that is smothering the abilities of the individual employees and stopping them from solving the problems on our Forest Service lands. Today, we have "teams" and "team leaders" in government but not supervisors. Let me repeat, we have teams and team leaders, but not supervisors. Our forests deserve attention not unsupervised teams. We need people who will be responsive to the needs of our natural heritage—not to the faceless bureaucracy that currently exists in the Forest Service.

There is no doubt that the USFS will say the cost of implementing this legislation is too expensive. It will not be too expensive or more expensive. Not if they do it right. They need to stop trying to protect their sacred regional office turf. If USDA agencies can do it and BLM can do it, then so can the USFS.

We need an agency that listens to the people. We need an agency that responds to the communities most impacted by forest policy. We also need funding that is used on the ground projects that improve the health of our forests. We do not need funding that disappears in the Washington, D.C. office and in the Regional offices of the USFS. I ask the Congress when will we say about the total mismanagement "enough is enough"?

NORTHEAST DISTRICT OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF NEGRO BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S CLUBS 42ND ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 25, 2000*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, the Northeast District of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc., will hold its 42nd Annual District Conference at the Doubletree Somerset Hotel in Somerset New Jersey from June 2nd through June 4th.

The theme of the conference is "Leadership By Example: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow." What an appropriate theme: for the challenge of leading by example has been the driving force behind this great organization, on the national level, throughout the Northeast District, and especially the Central Jersey Club. The organization, through its leadership,

helps to plant the seeds from which many projects grow, both from within and from outside the organization.

The Central Jersey Club was one of the first organizations to give an AIDS/HIV workshop in the Central New Jersey area, and they also care for AIDS babies at St. Clare's Home in Neptune, NJ. The Club also provides career awareness programs, offers scholarships to needy students, works with the homeless by tutoring the clients and teaching them to knit, and donates clothing and Easter egg hunts for children. Some clubs donated food baskets to the needy during Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter, and they celebrated Women's History Month by sponsoring essay contests at various schools. The North Jersey Unit promoted and implemented at the local level the Leontyne Price Vocal Arts Competition for talented African American opera singers. The winner will be competing at the semi-finals at the upcoming conference. The Union County Club plays an important part in their community with their scholarship program.

The Northeast Division was organized in 1959, being one of seven districts in the organization. The Northeast is the largest in the organization, consisting of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Northern New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont and the Commonwealth of Bermuda.

As a non-profit organization, the organization's national program thrust is Health, Education, Employment and Economic Development (HEED). Other projects that clubs participate in are Breast Cancer Awareness Programs, Adopt-A-School, Welfare to Work, and Black Entrepreneurship programs, among others.

The Northeast District's involvement in National projects includes sponsorship of water wells in Cameroon, and the opening of a health care facility in the Village of Atrapa in Ghana. Mary Singletary, past national president and a member of the North Jersey Unit, was very instrumental in these projects. In addition, the District continues to be involved with UNICEF and the United Nations as a non-governmental organization.

I want to salute the great work of Yvonne Harris Jones, the Governor of the Northeast District of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc., and all of those whose efforts contribute to making this organization such a force for positive change in our community.

#### TRIBUTE TO MR. ED CRAPO

#### HON. KAREN L. THURMAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Mrs. THURMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable man from my district, Mr. Ed Crapo, Property Appraiser of Alachua County. Mr. Crapo has recently been elected to the position of President of the International Association of Assessing Officers.

The IAAO is an educational and research association of individuals in the assessment community and other professionals with an interest in property taxation. Membership is open to anyone, and includes individuals working in government, private industry, academia and members of the general public.

Through the position of president, Mr. Crapo will help the IAAO to promote innovation and excellence in property appraisal and property tax policy and administration through professional development, education, research and technical assistance.

In 1992, Mr. Crapo was first appointed as a State Representative for the IAAO. Through this position, he was able to make the IAAO's professional standards more widely known throughout the state of Florida. Since then, he has served the IAAO through eight other appointed and elected positions.

As chair of the Research and Technology Committee, he guided the development of professional standards and has helped other appraisers with technical assistance. While serving as chair of the Professional Development Committee, he oversaw an education program which trains more than 6000 assessment employees each year. Through his current position as president-elect, as well as being a former vice-president and board member, Mr. Crapo has been able to change the organization as necessary to meet the ever-changing needs of the assessment community.

By being a member of this organization, Mr. Crapo, is able to learn valuable information from other appraisers around the world. Because of this outstanding resource, he is able to bring his knowledge back to Alachua County to better serve the local residents.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to Mr. Ed Crapo for his service to Alachua County and for his election to the office of President of the International Association of Assessing Officers.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF GARY YATES

#### HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the life of San Mateo City Councilman Gary Yates, one of the city's most talented and effective public servants, who passed away suddenly last weekend at the age of only 54 years.

During his quarter-century as a San Mateo City resident, Gary served his community in many capacities, from mayor to president of the local homeowners association. Gary was, however, far more than just an officeholder; he was a dedicated advocate for the needs and interests of all the citizens of the City of San Mateo. He championed initiatives to improve paramedic response times; worked to make city government more efficient by expanding the use of performance bonuses; fought to maintain the beauty of the City of San Mateo by authoring a successful ballot measure to limit the height and density of buildings; and spent countless hours solving public problems both large and small. Mr. Speaker, Gary Yates deserves credit for helping to make the City of San Mateo one of the most pleasant cities places in America to live.

Gary Yates was a dear friend, and it was an honor and a pleasure for me to work with him on a number of issues of importance to the people of the City of San Mateo over the past two decades. His daughter, Dana, served ably as an intern in my office. I would like to offer

my heartfelt condolences to Gary's wife, Linda, and his entire family. Mr. Speaker, yesterday morning the San Mateo County Times eloquently recounted the outstanding legacy that Gary Yates has left to his community, his friends, and his family. I ask that this editorial be placed in the RECORD.

#### YATES WILL BE MISSED

San Mateo County Times, May 24, 2000

With the untimely death of City Councilman Gary Yates on Sunday, San Mateo has lost a politician, a civic-minded citizen, a friend. Yates was a man who, in the words of City Manager Arne Croce, "lived and breathed this community."

Yates, 54, served on the council since 1993. But his community involvement stretched back 25 years before that when the San Francisco-born man chose San Mateo as his home town.

Yates became involved with local issues as a member of the Fiesta Gardens Homes Association, and was later president of the umbrella organization, San Mateo United Homeowners Association.

He served as mayor in 1996 and would have held the office again next year.

Yates was remembered by his colleagues on the council as a mediator who could disagree without rancor and always had the community's best interests in mind.

He respected the council's decisions, even when votes didn't go his way.

He was also a strong advocate for public safety, pushing for Advanced Life Support paramedic services countywide and convincing city residents to pass a bond measure funding seismic retrofits at the police and fire stations.

Today, when lots of cities can't even get enough candidates together to hold a contested council election, and many residents are too busy with work and family to get involved in local issues, someone with Yates' dedication to civic life is rare indeed.

Gary Yates will be missed most by his wife, Linda, and his children, Jeff, Dana and Alicia. But the loss echoes throughout San Mateo, which has one less leader and advocate.

#### AUTHORIZING EXTENSION OF NON-DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT (NORMAL TRADE RELATIONS TREATMENT) TO PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

SPEECH OF

#### HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 24, 2000

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, although I am for free and fair trade, as well as engagement with China, now is not the time for Permanent NTR.

Like many of my colleagues, I look at all trade agreements on an individual basis and weigh their positives and negatives accordingly.

For example, I support United States participation in the World Trade Organization and I supported annual NTR because I believe it is important to engage China. However, I opposed the Africa/CBI trade deal because it was bad for American workers and did not contain enough protections from potential trade related job losses to mitigate the impact it would have on American employees and my constituents in New York.