

I have had the opportunity to designate and protect more wilderness across the country than almost any other member of Congress. I believe strongly in wilderness designation when it is compatible, when the lands fit the criteria according to the definitions of the 1964 Act and wilderness the highest and best use of the public lands. The bill I am introducing today reflects my belief that wilderness designation is the best way to protect the Pilot Range and I hope my colleagues will support me in that effort.

THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
OLMSTED FALLS BOY SCOUT  
TROOP 201

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2001*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize a fine organization that has shaped and molded young men since 1926, the Olmsted Falls Boy Scout Troop 201, on their 75th Anniversary.

Boy Scout Troop 201 has a long and distinguished history of molding young men in Olmsted Falls into productive individuals in our society. The troop chartered in 1926 and consisted of 12 scouts that met regularly and attended summer camps together. Over the years the troop grew and flourished, gaining respect both in the International Scouting Association and the local Cleveland community.

As years turned into decades, Troop 201 began graduating Eagle Scouts, scouting's highest honor. Less than 2 percent of all Scouters attain this highest honor. Not only are scouts required to fulfill a minimum leadership requirement to attain the coveted Eagle Scout, but every young man must plan, develop, and implement an extensive community service project. Over the years Troop 201 has dedicated a great deal of time and energy to serving in the community, and scouters have selflessly given of their time and effort. The rank of Eagle is an achievement that requires years of dedication to self-improvement, hard work, and the community. Since 1926, Troops 201 has seen over 70 Eagle Scouts.

Olmsted Falls Troop 201 has always stood tall for the causes of righteousness and equity in our society. The original purpose of the Boy Scouts of America, chartered by Congress in 1916, is to provide an educational program for boys and young adults, to build character, to train in the responsibilities of participating citizenship, and to develop personal fitness. The International Scouting Association strives to instill values to develop leadership in young men, and teach them the benefits of a strong character. Scouts are taught to follow and uphold the 12 pillars of the Scout Law in their daily life and treat all people with respect and dignity. At the start of every meeting, scouts hold high their right hand and recite the scout oath, a pledge to remain physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight. These three guiding principles instill strong values in young leaders and teach them of respect, dignity, and equality for all.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and celebrating Boy Scout Troop 201 on their 75th Anniversary. This special Diamond Anniversary marks a milestone in this troop's distin-

guished career and celebrates the countless young men affected by this organization. Troop 201 has continually strived to develop young leaders in the Olmsted Falls community, and has earned the respect and admiration of the entire Olmsted Falls community.

HONORING JESSICA L. WRIGHT  
UPON PROMOTION TO GENERAL

**HON. GEORGE W. GEKAS**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2001*

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, a wise person once said, "All glory comes from daring to begin." This is certainly true of the person I rise today to honor. Jessica Wright is a constituent from my district who has just recently achieved the rank of Brigadier General.

This is an honor and a first. For you see, the newly appointed general is the first woman to achieve this rank in the Pennsylvania National Guard. This achievement is the result of twenty-six years of dedication and duty.

General Wright has been a pioneer of sorts. Throughout her career in the National Guard she was daring enough to be the first to blaze trails where there were none. She was the first female aviator in the Army National Guard when she completed the officer's rotary wing aviator course at Fort Rucker in Alabama.

General Wright was also the first female to become a combat commander in the rank of colonel in the Army. She achieved this prestigious honor when she was took command of the 28th Infantry Division stationed at Fort Indiantown Gap in Lebanon County, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the House, General Wright has served her country with distinction. I ask that you join me in honoring this fine soldier for her service to the United States and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

EFFORTS TO ASSIST THE  
HOMELESS AND HUNGRY

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2001*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on June 1st, at the annual awards ceremony of the St. Albans School, 17 year old James Fisher was recognized and honored for his innovative project to feed the homeless of Washington, D.C. I am pleased to share his story, with the hopes that his example might inspire other teenagers throughout the nation.

Homelessness is one of America's most complicated and important social issues. In an effort to combat this complex problem, Congress continues to appropriate funds each year to the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Act which provides funds to the Department of Housing and Urban Development to administer programs which assist homeless children and adults. In addition, there are also countless acts of compassion each day among private citizens in their communities to help stem hopelessness and hunger among our homeless population. James Fisher's is but one

story among thousands in which Americans across the nation are working to help the homeless.

After noticing that the breakfast period at a neighborhood McDonald's was the slowest period of the day for sales one morning, James Fisher approached the owner, Mrs. Neva Van Valkenburg, with an idea. Mr. Fisher proposed arranging for students at St. Albans School and its sister school, the National Cathedral School, to have breakfast at the McDonald's every day for one week. In return for this increased business, Mr. Fisher asked for 15% of each morning's sales, in the form of a food credit, to be set aside for low-income and homeless children. This credit would then be used to purchase meals provided by Martha's Table in the District of Columbia. Mrs. Van Valkenburg agreed with James' idea and the program became a stellar success. James Fisher's arrangement with Mrs. Van Valkenburg provided for 250 additional meals for the homeless children who are fed at Martha's Table. Mr. Speaker, I commend James, Mrs. Van Valkenburg and the students who participated in this program to help homeless children in their community.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to recognize the many organizations and individuals in my own Congressional district who assist the homeless and the hungry. These services range from mental and physical health programs, help desks, meals and shelter, job training programs, health care, transitional housing and residential rehabilitation. These organizations are fighting the battle against homelessness and hunger everyday. Some of the organizations I would like to recognize for their work include the Daly City Community Services Center, the North Peninsula Dining Center in Daly City, the Grace Covenant Church in South San Francisco, the South San Francisco Food Pantry in South San Francisco, the North Peninsula Neighborhood Services Center in South San Francisco, the St. Vincent de Paul Society Cafe, the St. Vincent Homeless Help Desk in South San Francisco, the San Mateo Pacifica Resource Center, CALL -Primrose Center in Burlingame, the Samaritan Family Kitchen in San Mateo, and many, many others.

All of these groups help to provide necessary services for the homeless of San Francisco and San Mateo Counties and I would like to pay tribute to the individuals who work and volunteer their time to help the homeless and the hungry in our community.

Mr. Speaker, James Fisher's experience and the efforts of many other organizations, including those on the Peninsula and in the City of San Francisco, should serve as an example to all of us on how each one of us can help our communities work to alleviate hunger and homelessness.

IN HONOR OF THE REOPENING OF  
THE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL  
AND TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY  
CENTER OF NEW YORK

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2001*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and

Transgender Community Center of New York will reopen after a two-year renovation. The Center is housed in a historic former high school in Greenwich Village. The Food and Maritime Trades High School was built in 1844 and became the spiritual home of the Gay and Lesbian community of New York in 1983.

Since its founding, the Center has served as a meeting place for those committed to improving the lives and assuring the rights of those who suffer because of their actual or perceived sexual orientation. The Center is an inclusive organization that recently changed its name to demonstrate a commitment to serving the Bisexual and Transgender community.

Newcomers to New York have always joined together in fraternal and social groups. Just as some organizations help immigrants adjust to life in the City, so too, the Center helps newcomers from the gay community as they adjust to a new life in New York. Quarterly orientations and regular support groups for young people are some of the Center's most important programs.

The Center is the "heart" of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender community in New York City. Each week, more than 5,000 people visit the center to take advantage of the numerous services and programs it offers. It has also become a social center for many people in the community. The monthly schedule at the Center includes more than 100 political and social groups. The AA program alone provides counseling and support for several hundred people in recovery. The Center Library is a valuable resource for both the gay and straight community.

The Center's real contributions can be seen in the lives of those who have been transformed by the Center. The HIV positive patient who is strengthened through the AIDS support group, the counseled teen who is empowered to stand up to taunts, and the participant in a 12-step program who can face the future with friends from the Center, have all improved their quality of life through Center programs.

I am honored to salute the many people who work so hard at the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Community Center of New York. The reopening of the Center is indeed a cause for celebration.

#### CITIZENSHIP IMPORTANT

### HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2001*

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member wishes to commend to his colleagues the July 4, 2001, editorial from the Omaha World-Herald entitled "Americans All." It ran exactly 225 years after America's forefathers declared independence from England. At that time, no one could have envisioned how the ideals expressed in the Declaration of Independence would continue to attract immigrants from around the world.

Mr. Speaker, immigrants who legally traverse the U.S. immigration system should be highly lauded. Indeed, they have made incredible sacrifices to attain freedom and the chance to pursue their dreams. Therefore, it is incumbent upon this body to continue to support legal immigration and the efforts of immigrants to become U.S. citizens for only

through citizenship can immigrants, who contribute so much to other aspects of American society, fully participate in our unique political process.

[From the Omaha World-Herald, July 4, 2001]

#### AMERICANS ALL

We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.—Declaration of Independence

As Midlanders celebrate the 225th anniversary of America's decision to end its status as a collection of colonies, it is instructive and heartening to note that this region is in a real sense a showcase for the degree to which the Declaration remains a living document.

Nebraska and Iowa in particular are increasingly becoming a focus not just of immigration but of immigrants who take the important and self-affirming step of becoming U.S. citizens. Those who do so are immersing themselves in the old, yet ever young, quest for life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, which often were not available in their native lands.

The numbers are not yet huge, but the math involved is impressive. Naturalizations—mostly of people from Latin America but also from Lithuania and Asia and points all over—have grown impressively in the last decade. Many come for jobs, often in this region's meatpacking plants.

But it is noteworthy that increasingly they are coming here, rather than to more traditional venues like California, Texas and the East Coast. Many believe that economic prospects are brighter in this part of the country, and for the most part they find easy acceptance. Last year, 4,245 people became U.S. citizens in Iowa and Nebraska. Contrast that with the figure of 897 as recently as 1992—almost a fourfold increase. (this Friday, at least 250 new citizens will be sworn at Lexington, Neb.)

He has endeavored to prevent the Population of these States; for that Purpose obstructing the Laws for naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their Migrations hither. . . .

It is worth remembering that one of the complaints the authors of the Declaration fielded against England's King George III was that his policies sharply restricted immigration. George correctly saw burgeoning population as a threat to his hold on the colonies. And while he could do nothing about population growth in America due to the natural margin of births over deaths, he could and did try to strangle further influx.

Today, although immigration and naturalization still present some roadblocks, the picture is much brighter. Among those who want to plant their futures here, for the most part they do better if they become citizens. They then have more of a stake, more of a say. And, to their credit, the process requires work. It's not like signing up for a supermarket discount card or acquiring a driver's license.

The procedure usually takes about a year. There's a standard \$250 processing fee, and along the way there's an FBI background check, an interview and a civics test. So it's not easy, but at least it's achievable and the process is regularized and fair. Completing it is, and ought to be, a source of pride.

Nor have we been wanting in Attentions to our British Brethren. . . . We have reminded them of the Circumstances of our Emigration and Settlement here. . . .

As has been often noted, this is a nation of immigrants. In the Midlands, that immigration has to a great degree meant Germans

and Irish, and in lesser numbers Poles, English, Scandinavians, Czechs and the descendants of freed slaves. Today, Latinos and, to a lesser degree, those of Asian origins are changing the face of society here—figuratively and literally.

It is, we believe, incumbent on those who got here first to extend a welcome to those who are making their own trips and taking up citizenship as the 20th century fades into the 21st. For the most part, this is happening seamlessly. For the most part, this is happening seamlessly. The newest arrivals are being assimilated and recognized for their strengths. To be candid, Iowa and Nebraska would have difficulty sustaining population growth without them. The process feeds on itself. Newcomers who become citizens (or legal residents) are in turn entitled to serve as sponsors for relatives' applications.

And so it goes. The faces change somewhat. The goals and dreams do not.

Nearly everyone who comes here and becomes a part of the American matrix is seeking essentially the same things the Founders were taking about 225 years ago. Americans are all in this together. They draw strength for new blood, new ideas. That's the indisputable past, and it is the inevitable future.

#### IN MEMORY OF STANLEY KRAMER

### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 12, 2001*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of an exceptional film maker, Stanley Kramer.

During his lifetime, Stanley Kramer produced dozens of films. They included such classics as *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*, *Judgment at Nuremberg* and *Inherit the Wind*.

Stanley Earl Kramer was born and raised in New York City's Hell's Kitchen neighborhood, where he later attended New York University. Before he left for the military service in World War II, he established himself in the movie industry as a researcher, editor and writer. His first film, *So This is New York*, was released in 1948.

Working in the 1950s and 60s, Kramer stood for things in which he believed and intertwined them into his works. For example, he highlighted issues such as race in *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner* and *The Defiant Ones*, Nazi war crimes in *Judgment at Nuremberg*, fundamentalism vs. modern science in *Inherit the Wind* and nuclear holocaust in *On the Beach*. He also depicted his courageous demeanor in his films, not even realizing it, by creating characters who fought against fear while others stayed behind.

Even though Kramer was known as a "message director", his friends and beloved ones knew him as much more. Steven Spielberg once said that Kramer was one of the greatest film makers due to the impact he made on the ethical world, and not solely based on the art and passion he conveyed on screen.

Eighty of his films were nominated for Oscars, 16 of them which won and six were nominated for Best Picture. Three of his finest films made the American Film Institute's list of 100 Best Movies of All Time. Kramer himself was nominated as Best Director three times, and in 1962, he was presented the prestigious Irving B. Thalberg Memorial Award for Outstanding Work. He also received the Producers Guild of America's David O. Selznick Life Achievement Award.