

there is no land available in southeast Alaska because it either is within the Tongass National Forest or has been selected or conveyed to the State of Alaska or ANCSA Native Corporations. In addition, vast areas of land in Alaska were withdrawn before most Alaska Native Vietnam veterans could have made qualifying use of the land. In contrast, federally owned "vacant" land is still available throughout Alaska and should be made available for Alaska Native Vietnam veteran allotments.

My legislation will also expand the military service dates to the dates that coincide with the entire Vietnam era conflict: beginning August 5, 1964 and ending on May 7, 1975. The expansion of military service dates to include all Alaska Native Vietnam veterans who served in the military during the Vietnam conflict is consistent with the federal government's policy of providing benefits to all veterans of the Vietnam conflict and not just to some of those veterans. This provision also fulfills the trust obligation to Alaska Natives. The limited military service dates have excluded many Alaska Native Vietnam veterans who bravely served during the Vietnam conflict. Never before has the United States given veteran land benefits to only a portion of those who served their country. The federal government has given public land benefits to all veterans (or their widows or heirs) of every war beginning with the Indian Wars of 1790 and ending with the Korean conflict in 1955. As Members will recall, Alaska Native veterans were not eligible for these public land benefits until 1924 because the courts had determined Alaska Natives were not United States citizens.

My legislation will also replace existing use and occupancy requirements with legislative approval of allotment applications. The provision assures the legislative approval process affords due process protections of valid existing interests in the land a veteran claims. The use and occupancy requirements would be replaced with legislative approval for several reasons. First, Congress has made legislative approval available to all other allotment applicants under 43 U.S.C. Section 1634(a)(1)(A)—[Section 905 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) which extends the legislative approval of Native allotments that were pending at the time of passage of ANILCA]. Second, legislative approvals of allotments prevent costly and lengthy adjudication of use and occupancy issues. Legislative approval also prevents lengthy delays that will impede many Alaska Native Vietnam veteran applicants from ever receiving land during their lifetime. Third, there are many Alaska Native Vietnam veterans that could not meet use and occupancy requirements as a result of their service to their country. One example that illustrates this point is that a deserving Alaska Native Vietnam veteran who was paralyzed during the Vietnam conflict would be rejected if that veteran was unable to complete the five years of use of the claimed land and had not used the land for five years before the Vietnam conflict.

My legislation addresses the formidable barriers that deserving Alaska Native Vietnam

veterans face when applying for a Native allotment under P.L. 105-267. For many years, Alaska Natives have had a unique legal relationship with the United States. Because of this unique relationship, Alaska Natives have steadfastly answered a call to duty when the United States called during a conflict or an act of war. Alaska Natives did so in disproportionately high numbers during the Vietnam conflict. Those who answered the call during the entire Vietnam conflict should not be penalized for their service to their country.

My proposed legislation will correct those inequities imposed by the last Administration in allowing all of the Alaska Native Vietnam veterans to apply for their Native allotment under the Native Allotment Act. I urge America's support of this legislation and of the Alaska Native Vietnam veterans who bravely served this great country during the Vietnam conflict. Fulfill our promise to all Alaska Native Vietnam veterans and allow them to obtain their Native allotment under the Native Allotment Act.

IMPORTANCE OF BINATIONAL HEALTH WEEK

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 16, 2001

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I come before the House today to highlight the importance of Binational Health Week, BHW, as proclaimed by the Fresno California County Board of Supervisors. Binational Health Week takes place this week, October 12-19, and it marks the beginning of the California-Mexico Health Initiative (CMHI) action plan. The CMHI is a cooperative working group between a number of local organizations in the Central Valley, and it works as a cultural bridge between migrants' health needs and available health care services in selected Mexican states as well as selected regions of California.

The Binational Health Week promotes and reinforces healthy behavior among migrant families. It will reinforce California's vaccination campaigns by specifically targeting migrant families, and reinforce Mexican vaccination efforts. BHW will promote flu vaccination among high-risk migrant adults and provide migrant families with information on health resources and services available in selected counties in California. Finally, healthcare providers will be given an updated directory containing information on migrant health resources in California and Mexico and disseminate current research on migrant health issues by promoting bilateral collaboration among researchers, health care providers and administrators to address service gaps and unmet needs.

This first Binational Health Week in California is conceived as a demonstration project to improve health care for migrants and will serve as the basis for future bilateral efforts. I certainly extend my support for Binational

Health Week in California and urge members to become familiar of the cutting edge bilateral working group, the California-Mexico Health Initiative.

DOUGLAS H. PIERSON, RHODE ISLAND'S PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 16, 2001

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Douglas Pierson, principal of North Kingstown's Hamilton Elementary School who was recently named a National Distinguished Principal by the U.S. Department of Education and the National Association of Elementary School Principals.

Mr. Pierson was selected for this honor for his outstanding leadership, and inter-personal and management skills. Throughout his tenure at Hamilton Elementary, Mr. Pierson has created a trusting environment where students, teachers, staff, and parents are encouraged to reflect, learn from their mistakes, and be thoughtful and creative about every aspect of their educational experience.

While Federal officials are just beginning to fully recognize the value of continuous learning for teachers and staff, Mr. Pierson has been encouraging it among his faculty for years. By modeling teaching strategies and disseminating research on innovative education practices, Mr. Pierson has improved instruction for each and every student at Hamilton. It was Mr. Pierson's leadership that led Hamilton Elementary to conduct a study of its effectiveness, and it is his guidance that allows time for each teacher to consider his or her instructional methods in light of the study's conclusions.

In addition to being an outstanding administrator, Mr. Pierson is an extraordinary teacher. From playing the ukulele to demonstrating mime to first-graders to dressing up as "Zero the Hero," complete with tights, a cape and hood, Mr. Pierson shows that he values students above all else.

Mr. Pierson was selected for this honor from among nominees of schools all over the State. U.S. Education Secretary Rod Paige will recognize him at a ceremony here in Washington on October 19. I am very much looking forward to welcoming Mr. Pierson to our Nation's Capitol and congratulating him on this impressive honor in person.

Mr. Speaker, we all know the immense challenges associated with true leadership. True leadership inspires people to be their best, to collaborate, and to work together toward long-term and often intangible goals. Mr. Douglas Pierson consistently displays true leadership, and, on behalf of the Second Congressional District of Rhode Island, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you for his efforts.

HONORING THE BUCKS COUNTY HOUSING GROUP AND BUCKS COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE (BCCC) STUDENTS IN FREE ENTERPRISE FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT OF WHEELZ 2 WORK PROGRAM FOR HOUSING CLIENTS

HON. JAMES C. GREENWOOD

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 16, 2001

Mr. GREENWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the Bucks County Housing Group and the Bucks County Community College Students in Free Enterprise for the remarkable achievements of the Wheelz 2 Work Program. This innovative program provides donated cars to clients receiving services through the Bucks County's Homeless Assistance Program.

As many of you are well aware, reliable transportation is critical to clients pursuing education, training, and employment as a means of securing self-sufficiency and permanent housing. The Wheelz 2 Work Program fills this need in addition to providing the community a tangible opportunity to be involved in a family's success. The program helps establish a long-term solution by providing a key element that allows people to maintain employment and/or advance in education.

Of significant achievement is the donation of the program's 100th car this October 2001. Nancy Lawrence of Pipersville is donating her 1985 Honda Accord to Housing Group client Michelle Heintz. Ms. Heintz, a single mother with a 3-year-old child, recently graduated from a medical assistant training program. Thanks to the highly successful Wheelz 2 Work Program, Ms. Heintz will now have a reliable way to get to work.

Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) is a non-profit organization that gives students the tools to learn the free enterprise system in a real working situation. SIFE challenges students on more than 700 college campuses worldwide to take what their learning in the classroom and use this knowledge to better local communities. Bucks County Community College SIFE students launched the Wheelz 2 Work in 1995 as an integral part of its community outreach activities. These students have brought extraordinary energy and leadership to the partnership with the Bucks County Housing Group on behalf of the agency's housing clients.

The Bucks County Housing Group is a private, nonprofit social service agency that provides comprehensive continuum of housing programs for homeless and low-income families throughout Bucks County. Founded in 1979 in response to the increase in the number of homeless families in the county, the Housing Group has worked cooperatively with both the public and private sectors to develop and expand essential services. At present, the Housing Group operates four homeless shelters, two transitional housing programs, a food pantry program and owns and operates three apartment complexes. In addition, the agency offers a First-time Homebuyers' Program and a Homeowners' Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program.

The Bucks County Housing Group and the BCCC Students in Free Enterprise have substantially improved the quality of life for 100

families in their county through their exemplary collaborative efforts. They will continue their important effort to reach out to many others. For this I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring these two organizations for outstanding service to the community.

HONORING BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL RECIPIENTS

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 16, 2001

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to recognize that seven blue ribbon schools in my 51st Congressional District of California are being honored as National Blue Ribbon Schools for 2001.

In alphabetical order, these schools are:

Chaparral Elementary School, Poway, CA. The principal is Holly Brommer, and the superintendent of the Poway Unified School District is Donald Phillips.

Del Mar Hills School, Del Mar, CA. The principal is Gary Wilson, and the superintendent of the Del Mar Union School District is Thomas Bishop.

Los Penasquitos School, San Diego, CA. The principal is Jeffrey King, and the superintendent of the Poway Unified School District is Donald Phillips.

Olivenhain Pioneer Elementary School, Carlsbad, CA. The principal is Emily Andrade, and the superintendent of the Encinitas Union School District is Doug DeVore.

Park Village Elementary School, San Diego, CA. The principal is Kathy Cleveland, and the superintendent of the Poway Unified School District is Donald Phillips.

Solana Highlands School, San Diego, CA. The principal is Brian McBride, and the superintendent of the Solana Beach School District is Ellie Topolovac.

Westwood Elementary School, San Diego, CA. The principal is Suzanne Roy, and the superintendent of the Poway Unified School District is Donald Phillips.

The National Blue Ribbon Schools program evaluates schools based upon their effectiveness in meeting local, state and national educational goals. In 2001, 264 elementary schools are being recognized as National Blue Ribbon Schools, including the seven above in California's 51st Congressional District, and 43 in the State of California. Blue Ribbon status is awarded to schools that have strong leadership, clear vision and mission, excellent teaching and curriculum, policies and practices that keep the schools safe for learning, expanded involvement of families, evidence that the school helps all students achieve high standards, and a commitment to share best practices with other schools.

I am immensely proud of the men and women whose outstanding and tireless work in the interest of better education has now been recognized through the National Blue Ribbon Schools program. This is particularly close to my heart, because, as a former teacher and coach, and as a father, one of my passions is improving education so that every American can have a fighting chance to achieve the American dream.

And while these seven schools in my district have now been recognized as National Blue

Ribbon Schools, the real winners are all of the children, parents, teachers and citizens who have all been challenged through this recognition to successfully improve education in all of their local communities.

PATRIOT ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 12, 2001

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, on September 11, 2001 our national tranquility was shattered by terrorists dedicated to violence at a scale we have not seen before. All of us watched in horror as airplanes were used as weapons of mass murder.

Following the attacks, the administration warned us that the terrorists operated within the United States. The Attorney General came to Congress and asked for broad powers to rout out the terrorists who may remain among us.

Fear has crept over our nation. Many Americans across the nation look with suspicion at their Muslim and Arab neighbors. People refuse to touch letters from far away countries. Passengers are denied access to planes because they have last names that sound Arabic. Mosques and businesses owned by Arab Americans have been attacked by vandals. Some Arab Americans have tragically lost their lives in acts of racial hatred.

As legislators, we need to ensure that any measure designed to strengthen federal investigative powers do not go too far. We must not let fear entice us to toss away the civil liberties that are the centerpiece of our democratic society.

I agree that America must pursue the villains who conspired to kill innocent Americans and to bring our country to a grinding halt. But we must not violate constitutional principles in our search for the conspirators.

The measures included in the USA Act go too far. We tossed away the bipartisan compromise painstakingly passed unanimously by the House Judiciary Committee. We were denied legislative due process. The Committee decision was trashed.

H.R. 2975 allows law enforcement agencies to wiretap and monitor Internet use whenever intelligence gathering constitutes a "significant purpose" of the surveillance. We should not expose citizens to invasions of privacy under vague phrases such as "significant purpose."

The bill H.R. 2975 does not include adequate safeguards to prevent the government from monitoring the communications of innocent people. Citizens may be monitored simply by using a pay phone frequented by terrorists. People may have the shadow of suspicion cast over them by calling a suspected terrorist. Guilt by association will take us back to the dark days of the baseless inflammatory accusations made by the House Un-American Activities Committee.

H.R. 2975 gives the Immigration and Naturalization Service unchecked ability to detain aliens for up to seven days without charges. If the Attorney General continues to detain an individual after seven days, the bill limits the suspect's ability to appeal their detention.

We do not need to expand existing powers the government has used to detain 698 people