

Peace Park Foundation. These leaders are rewriting the textbooks on political border conflicts and helping to bring about sustainable peace and alleviate poverty in these rural areas. It is clear that peace parks go well beyond the conservation of biodiversity and play a major role in confidence building between countries and within regions.

Today I am introducing a Concurrent Resolution to honor the Peace Parks Foundation. I want to thank the 12 Representatives who are joining me today in introducing this Resolution. I urge all of my colleagues to join us in honoring a truly visionary organization.

I close with the remarks of Nelson Mandela who said: "I know of no political movement, no philosophy, no ideology, which does not agree with the peace parks concept as we see it going into fruition today. It is a concept that can be embraced by all."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2001

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, on December 11, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall votes numbered 483, 484, and 485.

Rollcall vote 483 was on passage of H. Con. Res. 281, legislation which honors Johnny Micheal Spann, a paramilitary officer in the Central Intelligence Agency, who was the first American killed in combat during the war against terrorism in Afghanistan, and recognizes him for his bravery and sacrifice.

Rollcall vote 484 was on passage of H.R. 3282, legislation which designates the federal building and United States courthouse located at 400 North Main Street in Butte, Montana, as the "Mike Mansfield Federal Building and United States Courthouse."

Rollcall vote 485 was on passage of the Railroad Retirement and Survivors' Improvement Act of 2001.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on Rollcall vote 483, "yea" on Rollcall vote 484, and "yea" on Rollcall vote 485.

PUBLIC HEALTH SECURITY AND BIOTERRORISM RESPONSE ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2001

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, the tragic events of September 11 and the Anthrax scares that followed demonstrated the level of neglect under which our public health infrastructure has been operating. We no longer have the luxury of debating the "what ifs" in regards to bioterrorism. The threat remains very real. Our constituents demand that we take action to offer adequate domestic defense against bioterrorism. We must begin the process of improving and expanding our public health system, and can do so today with passage of this bipartisan legislation developed by the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

There are a number of very important provisions in this bill which will ensure that a na-

tional stockpile of medications is maintained, our food and water are protected, and toxic substances are carefully tracked. While we continue to develop improvements to our national response system, we have a responsibility to provide the resources to our state and local health officials and facilities to improve their ability to respond to bioterrorism. This bill is a downpayment to the states and local communities. It recognizes that each of our communities has distinct needs and that they require not only the funding to improve their systems, but the flexibility to address their public health concerns.

Like many of my colleagues following the terrorist attacks, I met with public health officials in my state. Common themes expressed centered on the lack of coordination and communications from federal officials, and the need for additional resources to expand planning and preparedness for future events. Enhancing the health workforce, laboratory and hospital bed capacities also were cited as needed improvements. I am happy to say that this bill begins to address these important issues.

As a critical piece to strengthening our domestic defense, the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Response Act will enable state and local governments and health care facilities to immediately address the protection of the health and welfare of our citizens. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

IN HONOR OF RETIRING REDONDO BEACH POLICE CHIEF MEL NICHOLS

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2001

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a good friend, Mel Nichols, who retires later this month after eight years as Chief of the Redondo Beach Police Department. My district office is located in Redondo Beach, and Mel and his department have kept my staff and local residents well protected.

I met Mel as he was leaving the San Diego County Sheriff's Department, where over three decades he rose from Sergeant to Assistant Sheriff. Mel accompanied me on a visit to the Mexican border, where we observed the value of technology in the fight against illegal immigration. I was pleased, subsequently, to help obtain night vision goggles for Mel's department.

Mr. Speaker, of particular value to me has been Mel's involvement in the South Bay Chiefs' Association, of which he served as Chairman from 1996-1998. This organization encompasses nine South Bay cities most of which lie completely in my district, California's 36th Congressional District. Although no longer the Chairman, Mel continues to be heavily involved in this association, which has been a helpful outlet for me to communicate with the chiefs in my district.

In the wake of the September 11 terrorist attacks, Mel took it upon himself to launch within the South Bay Chiefs Association a Terrorism Response Advisory Group, and tasked one of his staff to pull it together. This Advisory Group, comprised of select experts in a variety

of law enforcement disciplines from agencies throughout the greater South Bay area, is already working to explore and identify the appropriate local law enforcement response to the possibility of increased terrorist activity in our region. This includes training, contingency planning, threat assessments, liaison with federal and military agencies, resource availability, and intelligence.

Mr. Speaker, this could not be more important. The group hopes that its findings and recommendations will become a model for other regions across the nation in how our local law enforcement agencies can best work in concert with county, state and federal agencies.

This vitally important advisory group will be Mel's legacy. I know Mel will not forget this community that he loves, and I wish him and his family well in their future endeavors.

THE CLAN CURRIE SOCIETY

HON. MICHAEL FERGUSON

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2001

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to honor the Clan Currie Society of New Jersey.

For more than 15 years, the Society has promoted Scottish heritage and culture through their community-based arts programs and education outreach efforts.

Mr. Speaker, the Clan Currie Society encourages both Scots and also those of non-Scottish roots, to embrace this great culture's values, art forms and sense of civic responsibility.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have been invited to join the Society for their Pipes of Christmas musical celebration. I thank Mr. Robert Currie for that kind invitation, and look forward to next Sunday, December 16, when I'll have the opportunity to enjoy bagpipe music and share the holiday spirit with good friends and good neighbors.

Mr. Speaker, this Christmas season in particular, when so many of us are facing tough questions about the world we live in, I think it's important to look back and remember where we come from. I believe looking toward our roots and better learning about our past is the best way to face the future.

Mr. Speaker, the fine men and women of the Clan Currie Society, through their hard work and dedication, make it easier for us all to learn about ourselves. For that, I thank them and wish them continued success, a Merry Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

ADMINISTRATIVE SIMPLIFICATION COMPLIANCE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2001

Mr. UDALL. Mr. Speaker, today the House will be voting on H.R. 3323, the Administrative Simplification Compliance Act, under suspension of the Rules. This legislation allows

health plans and providers to delay compliance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) until October 2003.

HIPAA was designed to improve administrative efficiency in the health care industry by facilitating electronic transactions between health plans and health care providers. The Department of Health and Human Services estimates these administrative simplifications will result in net savings (i.e., savings after accounting for implementation costs) of \$29.9 billion over ten years. The first phase of these simplifications is scheduled to go into effect in October 2002.

Some sectors of the health industry and state government's argue, however, that they need extra time to make the technical and procedural changes necessary to achieve compliance.

H.R. 3323 allows these health plans and providers that will be unable to comply by the original deadline, to delay HIPAA compliance until October 2003, provided that they submit a compliance plan to the Secretary of Health and Human Services. This document must summarize the entity's budget, schedule, work plan, and implementation strategy for becoming compliant by October 2003.

Mr. Speaker, I support the effort to allow delay for those plans and providers that will not be compliant by October 2002, provided that they do, in fact, have a plan to be compliant by October of the following year. Because H.R. 3323 requires plans and providers who wish to delay to submit a plan for compliance to the Secretary, I support this legislation.

I would like to take this opportunity, however, to voice my concerns over the fact that some plans, providers, and other types of companies affected by the HIPAA rules have gone to great lengths to be compliant by the original deadline, and now stand to face financial losses as a result of the delay.

One example of this is a company run by a Dr. Jacob Kuriyan, a constituent who resides in the district I represent. Dr. Kuriyan's company has developed software that helps facilitate the submission and receipt of HIPAA required electronic transactions for health plans and providers. Some health plans and providers have already purchased and installed this software in anticipation of the rapidly approaching HIPAA deadline.

Should H.R. 3323 pass, and allow some organizations to delay compliance, Dr. Kuriyan's company will have to foot the bill for removing this software from those providers who have installed it so that organizations can still accept paper transactions from the organizations who are not ready for HIPAA compliance.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, while I do support the effort to allow responsible delay for compliance, I believe that Congress should do our best to reward, not penalize the organizations and companies, like Dr. Kuriyan's, that have invested the resources and made an effort to be HIPAA compliant by the original deadline of October 2002.

FISHERIES CONSERVATION ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2001

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this legislation which includes reauthorization of the Striped Bass Conservation Act.

When my predecessor, Gerry Studds, first introduced the Striped Bass Conservation Act in 1984, the species had been battered by pollution and over-fishing. Harvests had plummeted so far, so fast—by over 10 million pounds over the preceding 10 years—that there was legitimate fear for the literal future of the species.

If the problem was clear, the solution was not. Striped bass are highly migratory, and move primarily along the three-mile coastal zone which is under the combined jurisdictions of 12 states and the District of Columbia. Balancing the needs of the fish, the fishermen, and the regulators, Congressman Studds and his colleagues crafted a unique and, as it turned out, highly effective scheme to bolster state management efforts to restore the stocks.

By all measures, the results of this cooperation among the states, and between the state and federal governments, have been astonishingly successful. Today, the fish are found in impressive numbers, up and down the coast. The federal-state partnership embodied in the Striped Bass Act has restored the species to its former, considerable glory as one of the most important sport and commercial fisheries on the east coast.

These strides for conservation also have direct economic consequences. In my area, healthy striped bass stocks mean business for campgrounds in Truro or tackle shops in Edgartown—and striped bass fishing has even returned to Boston Harbor. It's a classic case of doing well by doing good.

GLOBAL ACCESS TO HIV/AIDS PREVENTION, AWARENESS, EDUCATION, AND TREATMENT ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2001

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2069, a bill that I co-sponsored in order to help raise awareness of the need to promote prevention of HIV/AIDS. There can be no more pressing issue than tackling this pandemic that is so ruthlessly killing millions of people across the globe.

It has already reduced the population of the African continent by almost 20 million lives alone. It has created a generation of orphans that will never know the warmth and meaning of family. It is a relentless plague that destroys our universal productivity, labor and health. It affects each and every one of us.

Mr. Speaker, we must do all that is in our power to resolve this multi-dimensional global

crisis. In particular, I would like to highlight a portion of this bill's important provision that employs language from a free standing bill that I introduced which addresses the prevention of the transmission of HIV/AIDS from mother to child. This transmission is the largest source of HIV infection in children under age 15 and the only source for transmission to infants.

According to recent findings, the total number of births to HIV-infected pregnant women each year in developing countries is approximately 700,000. Funding under this bill will greatly contribute to decreasing this number by providing counseling and voluntary testing to infected women. With this information, mothers-to-be, who are aware of their status, can make informed decisions about treatment, replacement feeding to reduce risks to their unborn babies and future child-bearing.

This act of prevention is only one first step, Mr. Speaker, but an essential one in our battle being waged against this devastating enemy. I therefore join my colleagues in supporting urgent passage of H.R. 2069.

TRIBUTE TO THE PEOPLE OF LEON COUNTY, FL

HON. ALLEN BOYD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 12, 2001

Mr. BOYD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the people of Leon County, Florida. In a sincere motion of recognition, the citizens of Leon made a declaration of gratitude to all of those soldiers who are fighting overseas due to the horrible events of September 11th. I believe this decree shows that not only were all parts of this great country affected by the terrorist acts, but that the American people's support for the campaign to eliminate terrorism has not wavered.

Leon County's Declaration is as follows:

Whereas, the American experiment of government of the people, by the people and for the people stands as a beacon of freedom throughout the world; and

Whereas, the government and people of the United States of America are dedicated to the principles of freedom and individual liberty for all of the world's citizens; and

Whereas, on September 11, 2001, citizens of the United States and of the world were murdered in a dastardly campaign of inhuman atrocities, simply because they dared to live free; and

Whereas, the United States now finds itself at war both at home and abroad for the first time in its history; and

Whereas, the men and women of the United States Armed Services are tasked with the responsibility to defend the people and constitution of the United States of America; and

Whereas, many men and women of Leon County, Florida have answered the call to duty during this crisis.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved By The Board of County Commissioners of Leon County, Florida, that the men and women of Leon County who serve in the United States armed services are recognized as our ambassadors of freedom, and that they are further designated, along with their colleagues from every community in the United States, by the citizens of Leon County, Florida, as our emissaries of peace, and the best hope for