

Hansen wrongly asserts that these policies were imposed top-down and would harm good stewardship of our public lands. Nothing could be further from the truth. IN both the Yellowstone and Grand Canyon cases, the Park Service was responding to a public outcry, so the new policies in fact largely emerged from the grassroots.

Moreover, most people who visit either park don't use the machines. Instead, they walk, hike, ski, ride horses or mules, or take the family car, public transportation or, in Yellowstone, the quieter snow coach tours.

By contrast, of the 130,000 miles of snowmobile trails in the continental United States, only 670 miles are in the national parks. So Hansen's assertion that efforts to protect the parks' tranquility somehow restrict public access are just plain bizarre.

Our beloved national parks must be preserved for future generations, not sacrificed for short-term political gamesmanship.

Mr. President, as a Texan you know one of the greatest qualities about the West is the pockets of public land where it's still possible to find a little peace and quiet. Please don't ruin that irreplaceable experience at our national parks. The ban on loud, intrusive machines in these awe-inspiring wonderlands should remain.

A TRIBUTE IN MEMORY OF DR. BENJAMIN MAJOR, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 30, 2001*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, it is with a great sense of loss that I rise to pay tribute to Dr. Benjamin Major, a prominent Bay Area physician, who passed on January 4, 2001, in Kensington, California.

Dr. Major was a graduate of Fisk University and graduated from Meharry Medical College at the age of 21. After completing an internship and residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Homer G. Phillips Hospital in St. Louis, he served honorably as a Captain in the U.S. Air Force Medical Corp.

Dr. Major began his private practice in Oakland in 1953 and eventually opened The Arlington Medical Group in 1957.

Dr. Major was active in the community and the field of medicine locally, nationally and internationally. During his career, he was a consultant Obstetrician to the City of Nairobi and the Family Planning Association of Kenya through the World Health Organization, was a diplomat of the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology and a Fellow of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

He later received a Ford Foundation mid-career scholarship in 1969 and obtained a Masters of Public Health in Maternal Child Health and Family Planning from UC Berkeley in 1970.

Even though he retired from practice in 1987, he continued to serve as a consultant and instructor in family planning at several agencies and facilities throughout Northern California.

Additionally, Dr. Major served the community by being a member of several organizations. These organizations include the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, the National Medical Association, the California Medical Association, the Golden State

Medical Association, the Sinkler-Miller Medical Association, the St. Luke's Society, the National Family Planning Council, the NAACP, and the Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity.

Dr. Major's contributions throughout the world and at home will remain his lasting legacy. My thoughts and prayers are with his family, friends, patients and colleagues this day.

COMPENSATION FOR VETS  
DISABLED WHILE IN VA CARE

**HON. PATSY T. MINK**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 30, 2001*

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce an important piece of legislation to allow veterans disabled by treatment or vocational rehabilitation to receive compensation from the day they were disabled while under VA care.

The occurrence of medical malpractice in which veterans are disabled while under Veterans Affairs' care is rare compared with the total number of veterans served every year. In 1997, the last year in which data was available, there were 826,846 inpatients treated and 32,640,000 outpatient visits at VA medical centers at a cost of \$17.149 billion. There are 173 VA medical centers, more than 391 outpatient and outreach clinics, 131 nursing home care units and 39 domiciliaries.

Without this network of government run VA hospitals, clinics and nursing care units, many veterans would never receive the care available to them. However, it is clear that the care provided is not always of the highest quality. Worse than inadequate care are the instances in which veterans receive care that leaves them further disabled.

Since 1990, 9,597 administrative malpractice claims were filed by veterans with VA and 2,134 were settled. The total amount paid in claims settled was nearly \$1.73 million. During the same time period, 2,064 veterans filed court claims against VA. 626 of these court claims were dismissed, the U.S. won 272, and plaintiffs won 129 court claims for a total of \$65,858,110. The VA settled 1,315 VA cases out of court by VA, in the amount of \$253,464,632.

In 1958 Congress established section 1151 of title 38, United States Code, Benefits for Persons Disabled by Treatment or Vocational Rehabilitation. Along with section 1151, section 5110 of the same title established the effective date of an award for disability incurred during treatment or vocational rehabilitation. These two sections ensured that veterans disabled by their treatment received compensation. This was the fair and right thing to do.

A close review of these sections reveals an inconsistency. While the United States Code allowed compensation for veterans disabled by treatment or vocational rehabilitation, it established an arbitrary cut off date of one year to deny individuals full compensation. Individuals who are unable or not aware of this arbitrary application date for medical malpractice claims should not be denied full compensation for administrative reasons. Statutes of limitations like this are important for preserving the rights of individuals but the VA should be held to a different standard.

Veterans who prove that they were disabled while under the care of Veterans Affairs should be compensated from the day of their injury regardless of their date of application. This bill will repeal United State Code section 5110 which allows Veterans Affairs to avoid its responsibility to veterans it disables during treatment or vocational rehabilitation. The bill also allows veterans who did not receive full and fair compensation from the date of their injury to receive this compensation upon enactment of this bill.

I urge my colleagues to end this unfair practice by cosponsoring this bill.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT ROBIE, OUTGOING CHAIRMAN, INLAND EMPIRE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP

**HON. KEN CALVERT**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 30, 2001*

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication to the community and to the overall well-being of California's Inland Empire is unparalleled. The Inland Empire has been fortunate to have dynamic and dedicated business community leaders who willingly and unselfishly give time and talent to making their communities a better place to live and work. Mr. Robert Robie is one of these individuals.

On January 20, 2001, Robert Robie was honored as the outgoing 2000 Chairman of the Inland Empire Economic Partnership (IEEP). Through Mr. Robie's efforts over the past year at the IEEP the Inland Empire has seen: The creation of 1,360 jobs and retention of 390 jobs, which resulted in a \$133,039,011 financial investment into the local communities; the implementation of "CallPoint," a one-stop workforce recruiting program that helps employers find and train qualified workers; the implementation of a new Bio-Tech/High-Tech program, which supports the high technology industry; the development of a Tourism Brochure and a Regional Visitor's Guide; the issuance of 306 film permits that resulted in 993 film related projects in the Inland Empire; the addition of twenty-six IEEP members; and the development of an Inland Empire supplement to the May 2001 Forbes Magazine U.S. and Global Issues edition.

As IEEP's 2000 Chairman, Robert brought his 38 years in the banking industry to the table for the Inland Empire. He is currently the Executive Vice President and Chief Credit Officer for the Bank of Hemet in Riverside, Chairman of the Directors' Loan Committee, Director of the Banklink Corporation, Director of the Hemet Service Corporation and Director of Florida Avenue Investment, Inc. Robert Robie's contributions to the nation's positive perception of the Inland Empire as a viable business location has been sizeable.

Robert's activities in the community also include being on the board of the Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce, the Children's Fund of San Bernardino County Children's Network, and the Riverside Community Hospital Foundation. Additionally, he was the 2000 Chairman of the Executive 2000 Council of the Riverside County Community Hospital Foundation.

His outstanding work to promote the businesses, schools and community organizations

of the Inland Empire make me proud to call him a community member and fellow American. I know that all of the Inland Empire, including myself, are grateful for his contribution to the betterment of our community and salute Robert as IEEP's outgoing 2000 Chairman. I look forward to continuing to work with him for the good of our community in the future.

IN MEMORY OF HENRY B.  
GONZALEZ

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 30, 2001*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, last November I heard with great regret of the death of the father of our colleague from Texas, Representative GONZALEZ. And I listened with great interest to the remarks of the many Members who spoke about their memories of the days when our colleague's father had served here in the House of Representatives.

The accomplishments, the character, the leadership of Henry B. Gonzalez are also well known to many Coloradans—as is shown by a column, entitled, "America Lost a Visionary Leader in Henry B." in a recent edition of the Colorado Daily, a newspaper published in Boulder, Colorado.

For the benefit of our colleagues, I am submitting a copy of that column, for inclusion in the RECORD.

[From the Colorado Daily, Jan. 19, 2001]

AMERICA LOST A VISIONARY LEADER IN HENRY B.

(By Yolanda Chavez Leyva)

Henry B. Gonzalez, 84 died on Nov. 28 in a San Antonio hospital.

Henry B., as he was affectionately known, was a fierce fighter for the poor. Throughout almost half a century of public service, he dedicated himself to civil rights and social justice.

Gonzalez, who served 37 years in the House of Representatives before retiring in 1998, was the first Mexican American from Texas elected to that position. Although he stated that his politics were not shaped by his ethnicity, his championing of issues such as voting rights and economic opportunity made him a hero to many Mexican Americans.

His career helped open the door to other Mexican-American politicians. According to political scientist Rodolfo Rosales, Gonzalez' election was "a cornerstone" in the creation of a middle-class Mexican-American leadership.

Gonzalez was known for his controversial stands. He was willing to take on Republicans and members of his own Democratic Party to defend his principles. He advocated the impeachment of Presidents Reagan and Bush for the 1983 invasion of Grenada and the Iran-Contra scandal, respectively. He also investigated their friendly dealings with Iraq and Saddam Hussien prior to the 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

During his tenure on the powerful House Banking Committee, he led the investigation into the savings and loan scandals of the 1980s, which implicated five Democratic senators. In 1993, he was one of two Mexican-American representatives who voted against NAFTA. The other one was Rep. Matthew Martinez, D-Calif.

Over the years, Henry B. survived many challenges to his political leadership. His po-

litical astuteness was unquestioned, his charisma obvious.

As significant as his individual achievements were, however, it is important to understand the community from which Henry B. emerged. Gonzalez was a much a product of the Mexican-American community's dream of justice as a champion of its cause.

Henry B. was born in 1916 to immigrant Mexican parents. He graduated from St. Mary's Law School in 1943. After working as a probation officer and deputy director of the Bexar County Housing Authority, he was elected to the San Antonio City Council in 1953 as a result of a grassroots campaign.

Henry B. came of age in a Texas that regarded Mexican Americans as second-class citizens. Texas Rangers and other law-enforcement agencies kept Mexican Americans "in line" through intimidation and violence. The Southern legacy of segregation was still thriving, although both African Americans and Mexican Americans continually challenged the status quo. The poll tax worked to keep the poor from participating in the political process. Education was but a dream to many. In 1950, only one in 10 Mexican Americans graduated from high school in Texas. Less than one in 100 finished college, according to historian Rodolfo Acuna. Poverty and racism had closed the school door to the majority of Mexican-American children.

In San Antonio, where Henry B. grew up, the streets of the barrios remained unpaved. Health care for the poor was negligible. Tuberculosis and other diseases were rampant.

Despite the poverty and second-class citizenship, a dream of justice lived. In the 1930s, thousands of Mexican-American workers took to the San Antonio streets demanding better working conditions.

In the 1940s and '50s, Mexican Americans used the Texas courts to demand equality. In the 1948 Delgado vs. Bastrop Independent School District case, the court ruled that the segregation of Mexican-American children in schools violated the 14th Amendment. In the 1954 case of Hernandez vs. The State of Texas, the court ruled that qualified Mexican Americans could not be excluded from juries.

Gonzalez built on these victories. Following election of the state Senate in 1956, he opposed efforts by other Texas legislators to maintain segregated schools. When legislators introduced bills to withhold funds from integrated schools following the 1954 Brown vs. Board of Education decision, Gonzalez responded with a now-famous filibuster.

Henry B. was often called "a man of the people," and his defense of the common folk is well-known. He was, however, also a man who emerged from the people with a dream: a dream of social justice and equality.

A SALUTE TO MARY KING HONORING HER YEARS OF SERVICE AS AN ALAMEDA COUNTY SUPERVISOR

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 30, 2001*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor today to salute Mary King for her years of service to the citizens of Alameda County and in honor of her retirement as a member of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors.

Mary King served three terms on the Alameda County Board of Supervisors and was

the first African-American woman to serve on this governing body. Prior to joining the Board of Supervisors, King was an Independent Consultant to the Board managing the ground operation for the County's sales tax initiative campaign—Measure B. Previously, she served as an Assistant to Oakland's City Manager, Henry Gardner, Chief of Staff to Oakland Mayor Lionel Wilson, and was an aide and later Chief of Staff to California State Legislator Bill Lockyer, California's current Attorney General.

During her tenure as a county Supervisor, Mary King served on a diverse and impressive array of boards and commissions. These bodies include California Attorney General's Commission on Hate Crimes, Association of Bay Area Governments, Bay Area Air Quality Management District, Alameda County Transportation Authority, Public Protection Committee, Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), Joint Powers Authority of the Network Associates Coliseum (formerly the Alameda County-Oakland Coliseum), the MTC's Bay Bridge Task Force, San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, Alameda County Democratic Central Committee, Democratic National Platform Committee, and the Center for Ethics and Social Policy of the Graduate Theological Union at UC Berkeley.

In addition, during her tenure as Supervisor, Mary King worked to save health care services for residents by creating a hospital authority model, implemented the Model Neighborhood Program, and developed a major land use approach to the County General Plan. I proudly join her many friends and colleagues in thanking and saluting Mary King for her years of service to the community and her commitment to bettering the lives of the citizens she served. Thank you Mary.

SOFT MONEY BAN

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 30, 2001*

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce a bill that would prohibit the use of soft money to influence any campaign for election to federal office.

Since 1907, it has been illegal for corporations to donate money for campaigns for federal office. Since 1947, labor unions have not been allowed to donate money directly for campaigns. Finally, since 1974, individuals have not been allowed to contribute more than \$1,000 to a federal candidate.

Soft money emerged as a vehicle to get around these campaign finance laws. Political parties now receive unlimited contributions by corporations, labor unions, and wealthy individuals. Huge amounts of soft money have invaded our political system. My bill places the same limits on the contributions to the National Parties as is currently in effect for contributions made to all candidates for federal office. We should ban soft money this year and restore the people's faith in our political process.