

and 30 new seasonal interpreters to better assist the public.

Laurie also serves on the Board of Directors for the National Association of State Park Directors, Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado, and Leave No Trace. She has been highly praised for her dedicated service to the state of Colorado by Gov. Bill Owens and the Executive Director of the Department of Natural Resources, Greg Walcher. Today I would like to add my voice to this praise. Laurie's service to the people and the lands of Colorado has been outstanding. The quality of life in our state has been enhanced by her commitment.

She leaves Colorado to join her husband in the Himalayan Dental Relief Project in Nepal. During my travels and mountain climbing experiences in that country, I have come to know and appreciate the people of Nepal and I know that Laurie will be of tremendous service to them. I wish Laurie and her husband the best possible luck there. If she has even a fraction of the amount of success there that she has had in Colorado then the people of Nepal will indeed be extremely fortunate.

Mr. Speaker, I am attaching a recent article and editorial from the Denver Post, and want to personally thank Laurie Matthews for her years of dedicated service.

[From the Denver Post]

HEAD OF COLORADO STATE PARKS TO STEP DOWN

(By Theo Stein)

Tuesday, April 17, 2001.—Ten years ago, Laurie Matthews inherited a Colorado State Parks system that had 190,000 acres, a \$6 million annual budget and a maintenance program so far behind that officials said it would take 44 years to catch up.

On Monday, Matthews announced she is leaving her position as director after a decade that saw park officials erase the maintenance backlog and add 25,000 acres of new holdings to a system that now counts 11 million visitors a year.

Under her tenure, sought-after lands were added under the park system's "crown jewel" initiative, and acquisitions around three urban-area parks, Castlewood, Roxborough and Barr Lake, provided important buffers.

"State parks have flourished under her leadership, and we will miss her greatly," said Edward Callaway, parks board chairman. "I have absolutely the highest regard for that woman." Matthews said she's resigning effective June 20 to spend several months in Nepal helping her husband, dentist Andrew Holeck, with the nonprofit Himalayan Dental Relief project they co-founded. "For five years, we've gone over to Nepal and gradually have done more and more of the clinics," she said.

While she's excited about the challenge, Matthews also said she has mixed feelings about leaving. "It's been a wonderful 10 years, the system is positioned beautifully, but, yeah, it's difficult," said Matthews. "What I'll miss most are the wonderful people who work for Colorado State Parks."

Matthews said three developments provided the footing necessary to make the gains of the past 10 years. First came the legislation enabling Great Outdoors Colorado, which earmarked state lottery money to help parks and recreation.

Second was a bill championed by the state's congressional delegation that allowed federal agencies to join cost sharing partnerships with states to renovate aging parks.

Finally, the state legislature approved park fee increases.

Matthews also focused on environmental education in the parks, adding 19 new visitor

centers and 30 seasonal interpreters to assist the public.

CONTINUE PARKS LEADERSHIP

(By Denver Post Editorial Board)

MONDAY, APRIL 23, 2001.—In the past decade, Colorado's state parks have truly blossomed—and just at the right time. As our state's population grows, more people need more places for outdoor recreation. And our 40 state parks (with more slated to open in the next few years) offer just such opportunities to 11 million visitors each year.

Such a diverse system demands the excellence in leadership it has enjoyed for the past 10 years under state parks Director Laurie Matthews.

Now, however, the 48-year-old Matthews is leaving to help her husband run a new, non-profit group that will provide free dentistry to Nepal's impoverished children.

Matthews' contribution to Colorado conservation cannot be overstated. She has been a tireless advocate for public recreation, environmental education, wildlife habitat preservation and open-space preservation. She has created good will between her agency and the state legislature—no easy task, given lawmakers' skepticism toward bureaucracies—and fostered cooperation among local, state and federal public-land managers. She has also lent her energy to numerous outdoor organizations, building community ties even as she helped build trails.

There's no replacing Matthews, but the state now must find a successor.

Whether Gov. Bill Owens' administration chooses someone inside or out of the state system, the next parks director must possess certain key qualities.

Foremost is solid leadership, including the ability to think strategically and envision what the state parks system should be five to 10 years hence. Indeed, protecting the parks from development pressures, while respecting the rights of surrounding property owners, is one of the toughest juggling acts the new director will face.

The director also must work collegially with other state agencies, while having the gumption to stand up for the best, long-term interests of the parks system.

Matthews certainly brought such admirable traits to her job. The Owens administration should search for a successor with equal attributes.

TRIBUTE TO THE LAKEVIEW HIGH SCHOOL KEY CLUB, BATTLE CREEK, MICHIGAN

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2001

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, as a former president of the Key Club in my hometown of Addison, Michigan, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to honor the members of the Lakeview/Urbandale Kiwanis Club in Battle Creek, Michigan and the over 40 students from Lakeview High School who will gather on May 22, 2001 to celebrate the chartering of the community's first Key Club.

Key Club is an international service club for high school students which operates under the sponsorship of a local Kiwanis Club, and is designed to aid students in developing leadership skills, initiative and good citizenship through interaction with business and professional leaders in the community.

The Key Club constitution promotes daily living of the Golden Rule in all human relation-

ships; the adoption and application of higher standards in scholarship, sportsmanship, and social contacts and providing a practical means to form enduring friendships, to render unselfish service, and to build better communities.

The history of Key Club dates to May of 1925 with the chartering of the first chapter at Sacramento High School in California by the Kiwanis Club of Sacramento. The club was originally formed to provide vocational guidance to young, high school males and to serve as an alternative to high school fraternities and secret organizations. Today, Key Club is the largest high school service organization in the country, with more than 200,000 members in over 4,500 clubs throughout North America, Europe and the Caribbean.

The impeccable reputation of Kiwanis International is well documented and well deserved. Countless individuals worldwide have been assisted through the organization's commitment to community service and helping those in need. I am honored to recognize the members of the Lakeview/Urbandale Kiwanis Club for tireless efforts on behalf of the greater Battle Creek area and for their willingness to serve as mentors and role models to area youth. I congratulate the Lakeview High School Key Club on the receipt of its charter and wish the group much success in its inaugural year.

WORCESTER—AN ALL-AMERICAN CITY

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2001

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to inform my colleagues that the City of Worcester, Massachusetts has won the National Civic League's All America City Award five times in the history of the fifty-one year program: 1949, 1960, 1965, 1981, and 2000. Worcester is a city that the National Civic League credits with being able to solve community problems.

On Thursday, May 24th the city will host an All-America City Celebration in Worcester City Hall when city officials and community partners will unveil five permanently-mounted plaques to commemorate this achievement.

The Worcester City Council, Worcester School Committee, Superintendent Dr. James Caradonio, the Central Massachusetts Legislative Delegation, All America City Delegates, municipal department heads, and community partners will be invited to participate in this event. Reverend Richard Wright and Mrs. Shirley Wright, Community Co-Chairs for the City's successful bid for the Award one year ago, will serve as moderators for the occasion. The event will include a brief speaking program, refreshments, and music by the Worcester Firefighters Pipe and Drum Brigade. It should be quite a party.

As Tom Hoover, Worcester's City Manager, noted: "I am very proud of our collective work to improve the lives of others and ultimately this community; it is the right thing to do!"

Mr. Speaker, I know all of my colleagues join me in congratulating the people of Worcester for this remarkable achievement.

RECOGNIZING JUDY JAMES FOR HER OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE SONOMA COUNTY FARM BUREAU

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2001

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, we rise today to recognize Judy James, who is retiring after twelve years of service as the Executive Director of the Sonoma County Farm Bureau.

In the past twelve years, agriculture in Sonoma County has undergone profound changes. New pests and diseases have threatened production, farmers and ranchers have had to resist urban encroachment and development pressures, and environmental regulations have restricted some agricultural practices. The Farm Bureau, under the leadership of Ms. James, has successfully guided its members by adapting to these changing times.

Ms. James has always been a creative and dedicated advocate for Sonoma County agriculture.

She developed the Government Executive Institute program to educate local policy makers about the challenges faced by Sonoma County farmers and ranchers. The Sonoma County Farm Bureau received the first of its three national awards from the American Farm Bureau Federation for this program.

Ms. James also created the Ag-Education Contribution Fund that is supported by Farm Bureau members. Funds raised through this program are used to promote Sonoma County agriculture in the local schools.

Under her direction, the Bureau's annual Crab Feed grew from serving 100 people to serving more than 600 people, thereby generating more than \$15,000 annually for Farm Bureau activities.

Although Ms. James is retiring from a leadership role in the Farm Bureau, she will continue to be an active member. She will help her husband run the family vineyard, assist her children on their 4-H livestock projects, and teach agriculture classes at Santa Rosa Junior College.

Mr. Speaker, because of Judy James' many contributions to the Sonoma County Farm Bureau and to her community, it is fitting and proper to honor her today.

INTRODUCING THE FATAL GRADE CROSSING ACCIDENT INVESTIGATIONS ACT

HON. COLLIN C. PETERSON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2001

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the "Fatal Grade Crossing Accident Investigations Act" to require the National Transportation Safety Board to investigate all crashes between a train and a road vehicle that result in a fatality.

The NTSB is currently charged with investigating a variety of transportation and pipeline

accidents, some of which result in no loss of life or even injury. However, freight trains and cars collide 4,000 times a year resulting in 400 deaths. The NTSB gathers these statistics from the Federal Railroad Administration and feels that its work is done. Meanwhile, the NTSB is the only agency with the authority to fully investigate these fatal crashes, and its failure to do so leaves a vacuum where families have to fight with railroad companies for answers and local law enforcement agencies are powerless to help them. In some cases, the family of a lost loved one must sue the railroad for the train engine's data recorder or results of toxicology tests that railroads conduct on employees involved in a crash. The NTSB has the authority to collect this information—if it chooses to investigate the accident. My bill requires the National Transportation Safety Board to put its resources to work where a loss of life occurs on any railroad crossing.

I am offering this bill with support from a group called Citizens Against Railroad Tragedies which brought to my attention the serious gap that exists in car-train accident investigations. I encourage all Members of the House to hear the concerns of their constituents who are associated with this group and to help us eliminate railroad crossing accidents by increasing the safety at intersections and investigating the crashes that tragically still occur everyday across our country.

HONORING DR. WILLIAM WILKINSON

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2001

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I am extremely proud to rise today to honor a very special man—Dr. William Wilkinson, a long time physician and former Chairman of the Board of Directors of Beverly Hospital in Montebello, California. Today, in recognition of Dr. Wilkinson's numerous contributions to the hospital and community at large, a record of achievements and service spanning more than 40 years, Beverly Hospital will dedicate its new Senior Resource Center in his name and establish the "Dr. William Wilkinson Nursing Education Fund."

Dr. Wilkinson has a long litany of accomplishments which speak to his sense of duty and responsibility to the sick, to his profession and to the community that is so much a part of his life. He has been on the Beverly Hospital Board of Directors since 1971 and also served as its President; was an official physician for the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles; a member of the Founding Board of Directors of MERCI—Mentally and Emotionally Retarded Children (1962); a Clinical Instructor for the Department of Family Medicine at the University of California at Irvine (1974–1988); an Assistant Professor of Family and Community Medicine at the University of Southern California beginning in 1980; and a Trustee on the Beverly Hospital Foundation Board. In addition, Dr. Wilkinson was awarded the Outstanding Volunteer Teacher of the Year (1986–1987) while at the University of California at Irvine.

Mr. Speaker, I would like all my colleagues to join me in saluting Dr. William Wilkinson for

his selfless and untiring efforts on behalf of others. His devotion to his work and his commitment to others—the needy, the poor, the sick, the young and old alike—have endeared him to so many of his fellow medical professionals and to the countless people who have received his comfort, advice and professional care. It is indeed fitting today that we honor Dr. Wilkinson for all he has done to make life better for so many.

POWER TEAM WEEK, KENNESAW, GEORGIA

HON. BOB BARR

OF GEORGIA

HON. JOHNNY ISAKSON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2001

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the dates Monday, May 28th through Sunday, June 3rd, 2001, will be recognized by the City of Kennesaw, Georgia as, "Power Team Week." During this week young people from all walks of life will have the opportunity to be motivated, encouraged and inspired by their awesome displays of strength, and powerful, values based motivational message.

In Congress we struggle every day with serious issues and problems facing the youth of our country. It is encouraging to know John Jacobs and his Power Team, are motivated by a quote from Mr. Jacobs himself, "today's young people are tomorrow's future." He is absolutely correct, and for more than 20 years, he and The Power Team have been taking the message of "saying no" to drugs and alcohol, the importance of high moral standards in one's life, and striving for academic excellence, directly to the youth of America.

We commend John Jacobs and The Power Team for their continued work on behalf of America's young people, and for the City of Kennesaw for recognizing May 28th through June 3rd, 2001 as "Power Team Week."

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2001

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month this May 2001. Almost two decades ago, President Jimmy Carter signed a joint resolution declaring the first Asian Pacific American Heritage Week as May 4–10, 1979. Then, a decade ago, the celebration was extended to the entire month. Finally, Public Law 102–450 approved on October 23, 1992, designated May of each year as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

I am proud that the region I represent in Congress is a diverse one and is home to many people of Asian Pacific heritage. So many of my constituents have distinguished themselves through their accomplishments in education, business, medicine and science, and other forms of public and private sector