

routines found in contemporary middle and high schools. I recently had the pleasure of visiting one such school, and would like to take a moment to highlight CrossRoads Middle/High School for its innovative teaching skills and exemplary efforts in teaching the youth of our community.

CrossRoads is an "alternative school," yet the staff is quick to point out "alternative" is not a label that refers to "bad" children. It is a school that provides extra needed attention for students who may have academic or behavioral problems, such as attention deficit disorder or low attendance. According to principal Jeffrey A. Garrett, "alternative doesn't mean bad but rather a different way of approaching school."

Students at CrossRoads are held to extremely strict guidelines regarding course work, as well as behavior. All students are forced to be accountable for their actions; and if they fail to meet the strict standards, they must leave the school. The most amazing thing is, even students originally forced to attend the school for disciplinary reasons learn quickly to appreciate the approach at CrossRoads, which makes them accountable, and do all they can to avoid being discharged from the school.

The school has developed a clear-cut system of communication between teachers and students, providing definitive steps for handing in assignments; erasing any confusion or miscommunication between teacher and pupil. Students are given ample time to prepare and finish assignments, with instructions given out a week in advance. They are then required to complete the corresponding assignment and turn it in the same day of the following week; but students are encouraged to plan ahead and turn assignments in early. Behavior is monitored with the "zero tolerance" policy. Any student who steps outside the boundaries set by this principle is expelled from both CrossRoads and the Cherokee County school system completely. Parents provide an additional branch of support, being required to know the school's homework guidelines and sign each of their child's assignments.

The "staff" of CrossRoads includes not only the attentive teachers in each class, but also parents, educational administrators, and state officials who work every day to ensure the best possible outcome for the students. CrossRoads is a haven where children with a few more challenges than regular students, can turn to learn a new academic process, improve their socialization skills, and prepare to return to move on, either back to other schools, or on to post-secondary education. CrossRoads provides a sound scholastic base of reading, math, science, and language arts. Teachers are committed to develop not only child's mind but also his or her self-worth, leading them to reach towards their full potential as leaders of tomorrow.

**CENTRAL NEW JERSEY HONORS
ARTIST LAUREATE AND DEAN
OF ARTISTS TOM MALLOY**

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2002

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the Dean of Artists, Mr. Tom

Malloy, Trenton New Jersey's Artist Laureate, and his myriad of contributions to Central New Jersey's cultural heritage.

Mr. Malloy was born in 1912 to sharecroppers in South Carolina. His family moved to Trenton in 1923. It wasn't until his mid-fifties, after a career that included work in factories and religion, Mr. Malloy decided to pursue his dream of becoming an artist.

Mr. Malloy has spent the last 3 decades capturing the essence of Central New Jersey and in particular, Trenton. Hailed locally for his watercolor paintings of Trenton, he tells the City's history through landscapes filled with architecture, cars, and city streets. It is told that, on request, Mr. Malloy can recapture and replicate an item or event as it appeared two and even three decades ago. His astute memory and talent will do much to convey the history and character of Trenton to future generations.

Though renowned for his artistic abilities, Tom Malloy's keen sense of history and purpose are what propels his spirit into the hearts and lives of so many. In his words, "I'm very conscious of history. If you don't understand history, you don't understand who you are." At this time in our Nation's history, when we struggle to understand where we're going and what is happening, his words ring true. We must know from where we've come, to know where we're going.

It is with great pride that I join the distinguished Mayor of Trenton, the Honorable Douglas Palmer, and the proud arts community, in honoring Tom Malloy as Artist Laureate of Trenton. This distinction is a most appropriate tribute to this New Jersey hero. Mr. Malloy is truly a treasure in New Jersey's cultural heritage. His art, as well as his gentle spirit, is an inspiration to all Central New Jerseyans.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, again, I rise to celebrate and honor this true New Jersey hero and treasure. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Tom Malloy as the Artist Laureate of Trenton, New Jersey.

**HONORING REVEREND DERRICK
ALDRIDGE AT HIS INSTALLA-
TION AS PASTOR OF FOSS AVE-
NUE BAPTIST CHURCH**

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2002

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Reverend Derrick Aldridge upon his installation as pastor of the Foss Avenue Baptist Church on Sunday, February 10th in my hometown of Flint, Michigan. This is an auspicious occasion as Derrick Aldridge succeeds his father, Reverend Doctor Avery Aldridge as pastor.

Avery Aldridge is a dear friend and advisor. I have known him for several decades and value his insight and expertise on the problems facing our nation and world. I have fond memories of the hours spent at Foss Avenue Baptist Church witnessing the Christian spirit manifested by the clergy and congregation. The commitment to promoting the Christian ideal has extended far beyond the physical confines of the church sanctuary. Reverend Aldridge has inspired his faithful to live the te-

nets of Jesus in their everyday lives. He has preached and exhorted and prayed for the Holy Spirit to move within his congregation and his prayers have been answered. The congregation has grown since its founding in 1956. Now over 50 auxiliaries and committees carry out the work of Jesus in the community. The Church has an elementary and secondary school, a credit union, an activity center, a free clothing center, and a recreation and fitness center.

One of the great blessings of being a father is to know that your children turn out well. Reverend Avery Aldridge has that blessing. Derrick Aldridge chose to follow in his father's footsteps and bring the joy of Christian life to others. Derrick Aldridge serves as co-pastor, as the director of the Family Life Center, as the chaplain for the Genesee County Sheriff, as deputy administrator of the Eagle's Nest Child Care, and as the Children's Church Minister. He brings exuberance to his vocation as a baptizer for Christ. Foss Avenue Baptist Church is blessed to have the continuity between an esteemed father and an esteemed son.

Mr. Speaker, Foss Avenue Baptist Church will have a jubilant celebration on Sunday as the congregation and Reverend Derrick Aldridge join in a covenant of dedication committing their lives to the service of Jesus. They are accepting new challenges and new joys. I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Reverend Derrick Aldridge and Foss Avenue Baptist Church on this holy and propitious day.

INTRODUCTION OF ENDANGERED SPECIES LEGISLATION

HON. RICHARD W. POMBO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 7, 2002

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, the endangered species program is supposed to be geared to protect endangered and threatened species and restore them to a secure standing in their environment. It is a complex balance of priorities and responsibilities that needs to be examined with all affected parties in mind. But, we all know that the current administration of the ESA is creating situations in which landowner's rights are compromised and the overzealous environmental agenda is advanced without a sufficient scientific basis, instead of actually recovering the species.

Some middle ground needs to be reached in reforming the ESA rather than forcing rigorous and inflexible implementation of federal regulations that have sweeping and often unintended effects.

First and foremost, the Secretary of the Interior needs to be required to use the best available science in all of the decisions made and needs to give greater preference to information that is empirical and peer reviewed. That means that we can all have greater confidence in the decisions made under the ESA. No federal agency, and certainly not the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, are infallible or free from political agendas.

There has to be a new emphasis on the need to use sound science in every aspect of the ESA from the listing process through recovery. Too often rhetoric and emotion are

used in place of facts. One of the pieces of legislation that I am introducing today is based on sound science. It will set up an improved petition process for the potential listing of a species; it also sets up an independent review board, free of political agendas, to evaluate the evidence and scientific findings of all petitions for listing and review jeopardy opinions affiliated with candidate species; and it will set limitations on re-petitioning so that the process can be finalized and settled without a drawn out, fruitless process that bogs down our legal and political system.

Also, the ESA needs to have stronger provisions to recognize private property rights. Private landowners must have the ability to voluntarily participate in the recovery of a spe-

cies, and they especially need to have a stronger voice in public hearings. One of the other bills I am introducing will streamline the lines of communication and the process to convey information to all affected parties; and it will also establish requirements for conducting public hearings, namely that the Administrative Procedure Act has to be followed.

Actions carried out in the name of the Endangered Species Act have had unintended consequences, especially on local growth and private property rights. We need to address these occurrences to make compliance with the ESA more agreeable and ensure that unfortunate situations that recently happened in the Klamath Basin will no longer occur.

The last bill I am introducing will set requirements to designate habitat. These improved

protections for endangered species habitats will help the species recover, but will also enable the Secretary of the Interior to make the best decision for all.

I urge my colleagues to support prompt passage of these bills to provide common sense reform to the ESA so that we can help threatened and endangered species, but we can also provide incentives and assurances to all Americans that the ESA will not be used as a tool of the environmental movement to lock up lands. People need to believe that their Federal Government is making decisions, which affect their lives on a daily basis, are scientifically sound and have their best interests in mind. I believe that my three bills are a step in that direction.