

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 17, 2002

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1854) making appropriations for the legislative branch for the fiscal year ending September– 30, 1996, and for other purposes:

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Slaughter-Dicks-Horn-Johnson-Morella Amendment to increase funding for the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities. The arts and humanities are important both socially and economically to our nation as a whole.

Studies have shown students benefit from exposure to both the arts and humanities. They gain not only a better cultural appreciation but are able to translate their positive experiences into skills that are essential for their academic future and their future in the American workforce.

Arts and humanities funding are increasingly allocated to state agencies for grant programs that reach out to underprivileged and smaller suburban and rural areas that do not have the benefits of big city art programs. In correlation, seventy-nine percent of businesses believe it is important to have an active cultural community in the locale in which they operate. Businesses in Delaware work hand in hand with the arts and humanities communities. This partnership makes my state a stronger community than it otherwise would be.

I have witnessed in Delaware firsthand how rewarding arts and humanities programs can be to our nation's youth. For example, the Possum Point Players in Georgetown, Delaware, is funded through the NEA's Challenge America Program. This organization provides positive alternatives for youth in Sussex County high schools through the creation of theater programs for rural and low-income students. Many of these students would not have the opportunity to participate in such programs without the Challenge America Program. These students have a better chance to increase their SAT scores, develop increased self-confidence, and are more likely to create multiple solutions to problems and work collaboratively with one another.

Furthermore, the Delaware Humanities Forum, through NEH funding, has played an essential role in bringing humanities to all corners of the state with programs available for schools, businesses, and other community groups. Each year the Humanities Forum presents an annual living history event bringing education and entertainment together. Past events have centered around the old west and the gilded age in American history.

It is important for us to remember, the collective benefits gained by not only our districts but also by the nation as a whole and that is why I rise today in strong support of increased funding for the NEA and the NEH.

TRIBUTE TO MIKE BENNETT

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2002

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise today to express gratitude and pay tribute to one of Colorado's outstanding public servants, Mike Bennett, who is stepping down this month as Chief of Staff to U.S. Senator WAYNE ALLARD. Mike is a true professional who has performed his duties with the highest degree of excellence. His leadership in Washington on behalf of Colorado will be greatly missed but always appreciated.

Over the past 11 years, Mike Bennett has served our country with distinction, carrying out both his personal and professional life with dignity, respect and dedication. Beginning first as then-Congressman ALLARD's District Director, Mike later served as Senator ALLARD's Administrative Assistant until his promotion to Chief of Staff in 1999.

Prior to his public service, Mike Bennett was President of First National Bank of Brighton, Colorado, and the Valley Bank of Lyons. Mike served as a member of the Board of Directors of Valley Bank of Brighton from 1984 to 1996. His banking career from 1977 to 1990 also included positions at the Farmers State Bank of Yuma, the Byers State Bank, and Valley Bank of Frederick.

A constituent of the Fourth Congressional District in Colorado, Mike Bennett not only makes his community proud but also his state and country. He has taken the responsibilities and standards of his job to a higher level, and I applaud him now before the House. On behalf of the citizens of Colorado, I ask the House to join me in extending congratulations to Mike Bennett for his commendable accomplishments.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DEAN DOWSON

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to take this opportunity to recognize Dean Dowson of Lakewood Colorado, for his accomplishments and achievements towards the betterment of his community. Dean has contributed greatly to the city of Lakewood, Colorado and is well known as a pillar of the Lakewood business community.

In May of 2002 Dean was awarded the "Minuteman Award" from the American International Automobile Dealers Association (AIADA), for outstanding political and legislative involvement. He has actively involved himself with Members of Congress, and has pioneered many efforts of the AIADA. Dean has exhibited an unparalleled commitment to his work and has become a pivotal part of the AIADA, aiding an organization that uplifts and reinforces the economy. He has truly excelled in many facets of his job, and continues to improve.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to stand this evening and honor Dean Dowson before this body of Congress and this nation. Thank you Dean for every minute of time you selflessly spent building a strong foundation in our community. Congratulations on your award and good luck in your future endeavors!

TRIBUTE TO ALEX REZA

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2002

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a good friend and an outstanding educator, Alex Reza. In May 2002, Alex retired after 34 years of service with the Los Angeles Unified School System.

Alex was one of the founders of the Mexican-American Studies curriculum at San Fernando High School where he has taught since 1968. He has a unique ability to clearly communicate history and make it relevant and understandable generation after generation. Known for his infectious passion when it comes to civil rights, Alex has made it a priority to ensure that his students learned about civil rights and labor leaders such as Cesar Chavez, Martin Luther King, and Walter Reuther.

A charismatic leader, Alex always manages to enlist numerous faculty, students and community members in his many initiatives and projects. His accomplishments and successes are legion. He helped found the Cesar Chavez March, co-sponsored the San Fernando High School chapter of MEChA (a national Chicano organization), and volunteered in the fund raising campaign for the Cesar Chavez Memorial. In recognition of his service to his community, Alex received the first Cesar Chavez Service Award in the City of San Fernando.

Alex's integrity, enthusiasm and strong consensus building abilities have made him a role model to many and an inspiration to many more. Over the years I have witnessed firsthand Alex's genuine concern for youth and their surrounding communities. I have met many of his former students whose interest in history, government and politics were inspired by his enthusiasm. In fact, three of those students now serve on my staff.

Lawyers, doctors, activists and leaders, including the President of the Los Angeles City Council, proudly count themselves as alumni of Alex Reza's classroom. Alex has created a living legacy through his students and in turn, he has earned the respect of his colleagues and his community.

Over the years, even though I never had the privilege of being a student in Alex's class, I've grown to trust his advice and counsel. In 2000, I designated him as my elector in the Presidential primary. He represented me well, and served with enthusiasm and professionalism.

Mr. Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to ask my colleagues to join me in saluting my good friend, Alex Reza, for his extraordinary service to the hundreds of students he has inspired in his distinguished career.

IN MEMORY OF ADM ROBERT L.J.
LONG

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2002

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I inform the House of the death of ADM Robert L.J. Long of Annapolis, MD.

ADM Long was born in Kansas City, MO, on May 29, 1920, son of Trigg Allen and Margaret (Franklin) Long. He attended Paseo High School, Kansas City Junior College, and Washington University in St. Louis, MO.

ADM Long was a 1943 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis. He served his country in the Pacific during World War II on the battleship *Colorado*. He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Combat "V", for meritorious service as Plotting Room Officer during operations against enemy Japanese forces in the Philippine Islands and the Ryukyu Islands.

ADM Long went on to serve the U.S. Navy in many other capacities including commander of the Atlantic Fleet Submarine Force and Vice Chief of Naval Operations in 1972, and commander in chief of all U.S. military forces in the Pacific from 1979 until his retirement in 1983.

After his retirement, ADM Long became a board member of Northrop Grumman Corporation and Hudson Industries. He was also principal executive of President Ronald Reagan's fact-finding committee that investigated the 1983 bombing of the Marine barracks in Beirut.

Mr. Speaker, ADM Long was a valuable leader in the U.S. Navy. He was a role model for younger people interested in military service. I know the Members of the House will join me in extending heartfelt condolences to his family: his wife, Sara, and his three sons, Charles Allen, William Trigg, and Robert Helms Long.

**NATIVE AMERICAN SACRED
LANDS ACT**

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2002

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, this body, the United States House of Representatives, is housed in a testament to freedom, a symbol of government, a monument of national historical and cultural significance. Throughout the halls of the United States Capitol there are statues of our founders, our heroes, our history. For the past 200 years, legislators have sweat blood and tears debating the laws of our great country.

In fact, many would argue the United States Capitol is sacred.

But there are many places across this country, no less sacred than the building behind me, that are being desecrated as we speak. It is inconceivable to imagine an oil rig plopped in the middle of the Sistine Chapel. But in fact that is the very problem facing Native American sacred lands today.

For example, the proposed site for a 1,600-acre, open-pit gold mine in Indian Pass, California, is a place where "dream trails" were

woven. The Bush Administration revoked a Clinton-era ruling that said mining operations would cause irreparable harm to these ancestral lands, an extremely sacred place to the Quechan Indian tribe. Now the tribe is left fighting for its religious and cultural history.

Long before my ancestors arrived on these shores, American Indians were the first stewards of this land. They respected the earth, water and air. They understood you take only what you need and leave the rest. They demonstrated you do not desecrate that which is sacred.

Most Americans understand a reverence for the great Sistine Chapel, or even the United States Capitol. But often non-Indians have difficulty giving that same reverence to a mountain, valley, stream or rock formation.

Recently Indian Country attained a victory in Valley of Chiefs, Montana. The oil company which sought to drill in this valley of peace agreed to transfer its oil leases to the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

But we cannot fight to preserve Native American sacred lands on a case by case basis. Valley of Chiefs serves as a wake-up call for action, for the pressing need to protect bona fide Native American sacred sites wherever they may lie on the public domain.

That is why today I am introducing the Native American Sacred Lands Protection Act. Joining me in the introduction of this legislation are DALE KILDEE of Michigan, GEORGE MILLER of California, ENI FALEOMAVAEGA of American Samoa, FRANK PALLONE of New Jersey, TOM UDALL of New Mexico, BRAD CARSON of Oklahoma, BETTY MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, PATRICK KENNEDY of Rhode Island and JOHN BALDACCIO of Maine.

First, the bill would enact into law a 1996 executive order designed to protect sacred lands. Specifically, it ensures access and ceremonial use of sacred lands and mandates all federal land management agencies take the necessary steps to prevent significant damage to sacred lands.

Second, our bill gives Indian Tribes the ability to petition the government to place federal lands off-limits to energy leasing or other incompatible developments when they believe those proposed actions would cause significant damage to their sacred lands.

This is an extremely important provision. The tribes would no longer have to depend on the good graces of federal bureaucrats to protect these lands. Rather, the tribes themselves could initiate those protections.

If you look to our national parks, forests and monuments and you see the commitment to preserve many of our country's natural treasures. The Federal Government has put its full weight behind protecting these lands, and we can do the same for Indian Country.

At a time when the Bush Administration is promoting increased energy development, we must enact comprehensive legislation that prohibits the loss of further Native American sacred lands. We must not stand idly by as these unique places are wiped off the face of the earth.

We commend this legislation to the House of Representatives.

**CONDEMNATION OF TERRORIST
BOMBINGS IN ISRAEL**

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2002

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, The two simultaneous barbarous homicide bombing attacks that struck Tel Aviv last night, claiming the lives of 3 innocent civilians, took place in the immediate aftermath of Tuesday's terrorist ambush of an Israeli bus carrying civilians outside the Jewish community of Immanuel, claiming the lives of 8 Israelis, including an unborn baby. This attack took the lives of three members of the same family. The military wing of Yasir Arafat's Fatah movement, the Al Aqsa Martyr's Brigade, has taken responsibility for this attack.

As President Bush stated in his June 24 address on the Middle East, as long as Israelis continue to be victimized by terrorists, Israel will continue to defend itself. Any hope that the Palestinian Authority was serious about rejecting terrorism and undergoing serious reform, thereby creating the environment demanded by the President for peace talks to be able to proceed, has been dashed.

Yasir Arafat, and his close associates, who rule tyrannically over their own people while trafficking with terrorists targeting Israel, constitute the root cause of the Middle East violence, as well as the major obstacles to peace. These attacks were designed to coincide with a renewed diplomatic process, specifically the meeting of the Middle East "quartet" in New York, which is composed of the United States, the European Union, the United Nations and Russia.

Mr. Speaker, Israel must and will continue to defend itself and its citizens. Israel's military operation in the territories in recent weeks have resulted in the arrests of numerous terrorists, and has undoubtedly prevented countless acts of terror planned against Israeli civilians. Israel's security cannot be entrusted to anyone but Israel. Accordingly, we must support Israel's right to defend itself in the face of these continuing terrorist threats.

We must also make it clear to the Palestinian Authority that their insincere condemnations will not suffice. Those who cavort with terror, those who provide financial support to terrorist groups, and those who knowingly and willingly harbor such organizations while taking no actions against them, are enemies not just of Israel, but of the United States and the rest of the civilized world. They must be treated accordingly.

**PAYING TRIBUTE TO DONALD
GETZ**

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2002

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to the life and memory of Donald L. Getz, who has contributed selflessly to the betterment of his community and our society. It is my pleasure to applaud Donald's hard work and to honor his achievements before this body of Congress.