

Mr. Speaker, I ask that this very thoughtful editorial by the New Bedford Standard Times be inserted here, because I know it strikes this important point, and argues thoughtfully and persuasively for NMFS to follow its admission of error with corrective action. Further, Mr. Speaker, when this House debates the renewal of the sustainable fisheries act, known as the Magnuson Act, this admission by NMFS that it had seriously undercounted the amount of fish in New England waters will be relevant as I and others talk about the need to revise fishing regulation in a manner that will make it less likely that unnecessary restrictions will be imposed on hardworking people based on faulty data.

[lsqb]From the Sunday Standard Times,
Sept. 15, 2002[rsqb]

NMFS HAS YET ANOTHER REASON FOR COOPERATION

What a relief it must have been for hundreds of commercial fishermen in New Bedford and throughout New England this week when scientists at the National Marine Fisheries Service in Woods Hole announced that their data for the last two years was flawed.

Big-time oops!

There's nothing as satisfying as learning that you aren't crazy after wondering whether you are.

Many of our region's fishermen must have thought they were going crazy, as they pulled up increasing numbers of groundfish in the last two years, but were told by scientists that many groundfish species were not recovering from decades of overfishing.

The NMFS scientists did not properly calibrate the trawl they use for annual fall and spring surveys in New England waters. One side of the trawl had a cable much longer than the other side, making it impossible for the gear to efficiently gather groundfish. It also made it impossible for the data from these two years to be compared with data from previous years.

The NMFS admission is particularly important because this region's fishermen are now under some of the strictest regulations they have ever experienced. How this mistake will affect those regulations remains an open question.

But the National Marine Fisheries Service should take this as a strong sign that more fishermen need to be involved with scientific research for the sake of the fishermen, the scientists, and overall accuracy in reporting fish numbers.

Just as there have been federal science observers on fishing boats, there should be fishermen observing the scientific methods used aboard federal trawl survey boats. Environmental advocates also should be part of the review as another check and balance.

NMFS would be wise to quickly establish a review panel consisting of fishermen, gear experts, environmental observers and scientists to examine the data in question and determine the changes that are needed in current fishing regulations based on these errors. Do we allow more fishing of some species, less, or wait for new data?

And it wouldn't hurt for scientists from the Northeast Fisheries Science Center to make a humble and public apology to fishermen for the error that could have a significant effect on their lives, their families and the port communities where they live.

TIME FOR REGIME CHANGE IN BURMA

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2002

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate September 18th, 2002, the 14 year anniversary of one of freedom's great tragedies. On this day in 1988, a military regime assumed power in the country of Burma during a brutal crackdown, slaughtering approximately 10,000 nonviolent demonstrators in the streets of Rangoon and throughout the nation over a period of months. Were these demonstrators committing some crime? Had they broken the law of the land? Were they planning some heinous act of treason?

The answer is no on all three counts—they did not, had not, and were not.

The people of Burma are guilty only of sacrificing for the same dreams that have summoned greatness in men and women alike throughout history: freedom, democracy, and human rights. As Burma's 1991 Nobel Peace Prize recipient Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has said, "... even under the most crushing state machinery courage rises up again and again, for fear is not the natural state of civilized man."

September 18th, 1988 was not only a tragedy, however. It was also a day of great hope. Since 1988, the Burmese people's courage has never for one instant waned or even cooled. In 1990, despite harassment, arrest, and intimidation, the National League for Democracy was voted into power with an astounding 82% of the seats in parliament. We members of Congress, as elected officials, in particular should understand the uniqueness of this victory. I know most of my colleagues in this building would do anything for that kind of mandate. In 1991, 1996, and 1998, the people of Burma and the National League for Democracy demanded recognition of this election with demonstrations and party gatherings that resulted in widespread arrests and subsequent torture. And, in August of this year, Burmese students again took to the streets in Rangoon, calling for the release of all of Burma's political prisoners.

We know from our own history that the struggle for freedom is not easy nor is it without sacrifice. The sudden rush of change might come at any time, whether through the crumbling of a wall or a crowd's deafening cry for democracy in the streets. We do know, however, that the United States of America has always stood for the principles that our nation was founded upon, and we will continue to support those that share our dreams.

Burma's military regime should be put on notice that the United States will neither forget September 18th, and what it represents for the Burmese people, nor tire in our belief in freedom. Most importantly, the regime should also know that many of us in the United States Congress are growing weary of the constant stalling and delaying of a full-scale political dialogue that includes Burma's ethnic nationalities. Now is the time for change in Burma and I urge my colleagues to join me in calling for that change.

TRIBUTE TO ALLEN LEFKO

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2002

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that a longtime community and business leader in Jackson County, MO, will be receiving the Humanitarian of the Year Award at the Truman Heartland Community Foundation annual gala dinner, "A Salute to Hometown Heroes." Mr. Allen Lefko has demonstrated a strong commitment to the area and its economic development and has helped to ensure a brighter future for all residents and businesses.

Mr. Lefko has developed and maintained an excellent reputation through the years by his many achievements. He is the founder, President, and CEO of Noland Road Bank; Chairman of the Board and CEO of the Bank of Grain Valley and Grain Valley Bancshares, Incorporated; President of the Independence Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors; President of the Independence Rotary Club; member of the Independence Regional Health Center Board of Trustees; founder, President, and Treasurer of the Association for Industrial Development for Independence; President of the Suburban Banker Association and the Kansas City Clearing House Association; President of the Grain Valley Economic Development Council; and Choices program sponsor and instructor.

Mr. Lefko has volunteered much of his time to the communities of eastern Jackson County. He has served on many YMCA and Boy Scout committees and has been engaged in such important committees and boards as the Grain Valley Arts and Beautification Council Fund, Grain Valley Senior Citizens Nutrition Program Fund, and the Association for Industrial Development for Independence Scholarship Fund. Mr. Lefko has also participated in the I-Share Campaign, the selection of Rotary/City of Independence Teacher's Truman Scholarship Fund recipients, Independence and Grain Valley Chambers of Commerce, the Board of Directors of the Grain Valley Assistance Council, and he was an auctioneer for the Grain Valley Assistance Council annual fund drive.

Mr. Speaker, I am certain that my colleagues will join me in wishing Allen Lefko all the best. We thank him for over 40 years of dedicated service to eastern Jackson County.

AMENDING LEGAL DEFINITION OF LEWIS AND CLARK NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

HON. BARON P. HILL

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2002

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, today, I have introduced legislation that will amend the legal definition of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail to include the expedition's route between Wood River, Illinois and the Falls of the Ohio, which rests between Clarksville, Indiana and Louisville, Kentucky.

I am grateful that representatives ANNE NORTHUP and MARK SOUDER have joined me

as original cosponsors of the Bill. Senator EVAN BAYH of Indiana is also introducing companion legislation in the Senate.

In October 1803, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark first met at the Falls of the Ohio, recruited the first members of the Corps of Discovery and departed for the west from Clarks-ville, Indiana on October 26, 1803.

Our country will begin commemorating the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark expedition next year. Southern Indiana and Louisville, Kentucky will host a "National Signature Event" to mark the important events that happened at the Falls of the Ohio.

Mr. Speaker, the upcoming bicentennial has caused many of us to more carefully examine the history of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. We discovered that many important sites like the Falls of the Ohio have not been properly recognized in the past. The Falls of the Ohio State Park in Indiana and historic Locust Grove in Louisville, Kentucky have now been certified by the National Park Service as official sites associated with the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

However, there is now a disconnect between the legal definition of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail passed by Congress in 1978 and the sites that have been certified by the National Park Service as significant to the Lewis and Clark story. This bill will extend the Trail corridor to include important sites between Wood River and the Falls of the Ohio.

It will also do more than correct current law to include sites that both the Park Service and Lewis and Clark scholars have noted as significant. By extending the official Trail to include more Eastern sites, a larger portion of the U.S. Population will be within driving distance of the Trail. This means more people in the east will learn about the Lewis and Clark story and be more likely to make a point of exploring Western segments of the Trail. This will significantly boost tourism all along the Lewis and Clark Trail.

Mr. Speaker, this amendment to the National Trails System Act is long overdue. With the upcoming Lewis and Clark bicentennial only months away, this is the perfect time to ensure the Lewis and Clark Trail properly reflects the expedition's history. I hope the House will soon consider this legislation and pass it into law.

FOURTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF BLOODY END OF DEMOCRACY IN BURMA

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2002

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to invite my colleagues to commemorate a very sad day in Burma. Today, September 18th, marks the 14-year anniversary of the Burmese military regime's bloody takeover of Burma, after gunning down an estimated 10,000 non-violent demonstrators throughout the country. Since that awful day, the Burmese people, led by the courageous 1991 Nobel Peace Prize recipient Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, have against great odds never given up their hope, their belief, and their struggle for the kind of freedom we have enjoyed in this country. This

struggle was enshrined into political reality when Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the National League for Democracy won a democratic election in 1990 with 82% of the seats in parliament—a landslide election the regime has never recognized.

Today, I commend the 50 million people of Burma on their struggle, and call on them to never give up their passionate belief that freedom and democracy should not be reserved for a small number of western nations, but extended to all men and women. Freedom and democracy are your rights. You struggle on the side of truth, and sooner or later, truth always triumphs over darkness.

Recently, our hopes for change in Burma were raised. In May of this year, just as my colleagues and I in the U.S. Congress were strongly considering to greatly expand international pressure on the regime, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was released from 19 months of house arrest. At the time, we hoped that her release signaled the start of a tripartite political dialogue in Burma that would include the regime, ethnic nationalities, and the National League for Democracy. My distinguished colleague and chair of the House International Relations Committee, Henry Hyde, and I stated, "It is our hope that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's release represents the dawn of a new era in Burmese history. However, first the junta must demonstrate through concrete actions a serious and consistent commitment to national reconciliation."

However, we were proven right to be cautious. The junta has yet to show a serious commitment to these discussions, which still must yield tangible reforms and changes toward democracy. It would be a tragedy if the release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi ended up mere window dressing for an ongoing litany of abuse. The regime has stonewalled the NLD in its efforts to commence a political dialogue and refused to release all political prisoners while factual reports of an intensified campaign of systematic rapes, massacres, and arrests have increased. The regime terrorizes its own population with particular brutality in the country's ethnic areas, where its soldiers continue to facilitate the drug trade.

I am especially frustrated by the regime's refusal to extradite Khun Sa and other drug lords and end its complicity in production of the methamphetamines and heroin that are destroying the lives of people around the world. Those who have watched this regime's untrustworthy leaders over years know that we must rely on actions rather than words. The regime has not complied with our efforts to stop the global flow of drugs. As long as this narco-regime stays in power, it can expect to receive no assistance from the United States.

Fourteen years is far too long for freedom, and we absolutely must lend our vocal public support to the Burmese people's struggle for freedom. It is time the United States and the international community see through the regime's smoke and mirrors and again move to increase concrete political and economic pres-
sure.

OBSERVING NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2002

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in observance of National POW/MIA Recognition Day.

Many of the ideals and beliefs that form the backbone of our nation continue to flourish in large part because of the great perseverance and dedication of our nation's armed forces. Unfortunately, as we all know, during war and even smaller armed conflicts there inevitably are troops killed, as well as troops captured by enemy forces or who become missing in action.

It is important that communities regularly honor not only those brave soldiers who risked their lives and were killed, but also remember those who became either missing or prisoners of war. We must show them and their families the appropriate appreciation for their willingness to make the ultimate sacrifice to defend and preserve the democratic principles held so close to the hearts of all Americans.

About one year ago, on September 21st, President G.W. Bush declared that day as National POW/MIA Recognition Day. By establishing a national day of recognition, we have ensured that this country will formally honor every year those soldiers who were captured by the enemy or fallen missing in battle while serving their country.

The establishment and observance of a day of recognition for our prisoners of war and those missing in action is of great importance for the estimated 43,000 retired servicemen who were previously missing or held prisoner and who fortunately were able to return to the United States. It is just as important for the families and loved ones of those who remain unaccounted for or possibly are still in captivity.

Throughout our nation's history the men and women of the armed services have courageously risen to the call of duty ignoring whatever trepidation they may have for their own safety and security. While the numbers who have perished in the line of duty is a tremendous loss, there are also astounding numbers of those who continue to be listed MIA or as POWs.

Our friends and our neighbors, and even some of our elected officials, are former POWs or were listed MIA during their service. More than one-fourth of the American soldiers held prisoner in the past five US conflicts were released by the enemy and returned to the United States again.

World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Cold War era, Operation Desert Storm, and the Kosovo campaign all resulted in soldiers listed as MIA or POW.

Records show that approximately 143,000 Americans were captured and interned during those conflicts. This number includes 81 women seized on Guam or in the Philippines during World War II, and 2 during the Gulf War. Of these 143,000 American soldiers approximately 125,200 have since been returned to United States military control. That leaves almost 20,000 souls unaccounted for from America's 20th century wars and armed conflicts.