

joined Brownsville Community Baptist Church, where she served as a faithful member. She was a very spiritual person who routinely began her day with meditation and spiritual readings. Michele's family and friends were an extremely important element in her life. Her home was a gathering place for festive family occasions. She took great pleasure in preparing gourmet meals and sharing the serenity and peaceful comforts of her home. Her jovial, playful, and light-hearted nature readily endeared most any "strangers" to her. She was a "communicator" in the truest sense.

Michele was an avid reader, a gourmet cook, an interior decorator and a thrifty shopper. She was rarely seen at work or around the house without her "book of the week," nearby. She became well-known by her JFK co-workers, family and friends for her famous, "Michele's Fried Chicken." Every aspect of her life was orderly; and her attire was always impeccable. She took little to nothing for granted.

Michele was called home while in the line of duty on Monday, November 12, 2001. Her memories will be cherished by her parents, Priscilla and Eugene Mills; her siblings, Tricia and Kenneth Mills; her fiancée, Henry Ray; two uncles: Bob Mills of Edison, New Jersey and Freddie Holmes of Columbia, South Carolina; five aunts, Albertha Bell of Brooklyn, New York, Dezel Mallory of North Carolina, Doris Mills of Edison, New Jersey, Lysine Holmes of South Carolina, Irene Holmes of Brooklyn, New York, a great aunt, Lucille Wilkins of Brooklyn, New York, one god-daughter, Stephanie Holmes of Brooklyn, and a host of cousins and friends throughout the United States.

Thousands of passengers and friends who knew Michele Mills will never forget her. In her special way, she was a Great American Point-of-Light.

TRIBUTE TO FRED M. SAIGH IN RECOGNITION OF HIS MANY YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 17, 2002

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to an institution in Iron County Michigan politics. I rise to honor Fred M. Saigh for his many years of public service to the people of Iron County.

Born on August 21, 1920, Fred M. Saigh graduated from Iron River High School in 1938 before earning degrees at the University of Michigan and Michigan State University. Following his service in the United States Navy during World War II, Fred entered into his family's restaurant business in 1946. In 1954 he entered the insurance business as an agent for the New York Life Insurance Company.

In 1957 he began a lengthy business relationship with First National Underwriters, first as an agent, then vice-president in 1964, and later chairman of the board of directors and chief executive officer. He has also served as a director of the Iron River National Bank and the Michigan Financial Corporation.

Fred M. Saigh began his political career in 1957 with his election as an Iron River City Commissioner. He served on the Iron River City Commission until 1968, including four terms as the mayor of Iron River.

During Fred's years of service on the Iron River City Commission the board reorganized the city's financial structure and developed an industrial park.

In 1965 Fred began a thirty-five year involvement with the Iron County Board of Commissioners, including nineteen years as chairman. Currently the vice chairman, he has been a member of the Iron County Board of Commissioners almost continuously except for a two year absence in the early 1980's.

While on the Iron County Board of Commissioners the county developed: a tax equalization office, the Iron County Ambulance Service, the Iron County Economic Development Corporation, the Iron County General Hospital, the Iron County Medical Care Facility, and constructed a new grandstand at the Iron County Fairgrounds, among many other projects to better the lives of Iron County residents.

Fred has served as a member of many public boards and commissions including but not limited to: the Western Upper Peninsula Manpower Consortium, the Dickinson-Iron Mental Health Board, the Dickinson-Iron Community Services Agency, the Iron County Economic Development Corporation.

In addition to his political activities Fred has found time for membership in the Iron County Kiwanis Club, the Iron River Country Club, the Elks Lodge, the American Legion, the Fraternal Order of Eagles, and many other organizations.

Fred and his wife, Lorraine, have raised six children: Terry, Barbara, F. Michael, Frederick III, Peter, and Mark. Lorraine has also dedicated her life to public service as an educator and school administrator in the West Iron County School District in Iron County.

Mr. Speaker, Fred has gone above and beyond the call of duty as a public servant and his public spiritedness is an inspiration to citizens and elected officials alike. I ask you and my House colleagues to join me in saluting a personal friend of mine and a true friend of the people of Iron County, Fred M. Saigh, in recognition of his thirty five years as a member of the Iron County Michigan Board of Commissioners and his eleven years on the Iron River City Commission.

TRIBUTE TO PATROL OFFICER KEVIN DELANEY

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 17, 2002

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Patrol Officer Kevin Delaney of the Wilmington City Police Department for his deserving efforts in retaining a canine unit for the community.

Since March 3rd, 1990, Officer Kevin Delaney has served his community over and beyond the call of duty. Officer Delaney has received the Distinguished Service Award, an Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists Award, and a Felony Arrest Award. Officer Delaney continues to keep our district safe through his many live safe efforts, and specializations as an evidence technician and truck enforcement officer.

Officer Kevin Delaney shows his concern throughout the community as he speaks to

local schools about the dangers of gangs, drugs, drinking and driving, and speeding. His involvement in the Will County Gang Suppression Unit has initialized the drug enforcement issue in Wilmington, resulting in his determination to acquire a canine unit.

Officer Kevin Delaney will be the officer in charge of the canine unit and take full responsibility in carrying out the duties expected of him. Officer Delaney represents one of the finest in the Wilmington City Police Department and will use his full potential to preserve the safety of the community.

Mr. Speaker, I urge this body to identify and recognize others in their own districts whose actions have so greatly benefitted and strengthened America's communities.

NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING ASSISTANCE AND SELF-DETERMINATION ACT REAUTHORIZATION BILL

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 17, 2002

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I stand today in strong support of S. 1210, a bill to reauthorize the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA) of 1996 that also includes various amendments to the Act. The NAHASDA, enacted in 1996, was the first piece of comprehensive housing legislation directed solely to Native American and Alaska Native people. It has become the basic program aiding Native Americans in tribal areas with affordable housing development including homeownership, rehabilitation, infrastructure development and other affordable housing assistance. As an original cosponsor of H.R. 1873, the companion bill to S. 1210, I urge my colleagues to join me in support of the passage of S. 1210 today.

There are many reasons that I support the reauthorization of NAHASDA, an Act that has created incredible opportunities for tribes to meet the housing needs of their members.

The success of NAHASDA is clear. In the five years since NAHASDA's enactment, over twenty-five thousand housing units have been constructed or are in development. This is nearly three times the rate of production before NAHASDA. With severely overcrowded conditions in more than thirty percent of homes in tribal areas, and more than forty percent of homes with serious physical deficiencies, the need has been demonstrated and is now slowly being met.

While development under NAHASDA is encouraging, it is estimated that there is still an immediate need for 200,000 housing units, a need that continues to grow for one of the fastest-growing population groups in the country. The poverty rate for rural Native Americans remains at nearly forty percent, a rate that is higher than other racial and ethnic groups of the United States, so the need for programs such as NAHASDA continues to be strong.

For all its attributes, one of the most important benefits of NAHASDA is that it promotes tribal self-determination. Under the Act, the focus is on the tribal government rather than a separate housing entity. Tribes are given more autonomy in administering their funds

and can tailor their plan to their specific needs. The Act also encourages the involvement of private sector entities and promotes innovative financing.

Mr. Speaker, the NAHASDA reauthorization bill will build upon the success of the past five years by providing more housing development on our nation's Indian reservations. The amendments included in the bill help to streamline the Act to make it more user-friendly and also further emphasize the self-determination aspect of the Act. Housing is the backbone of economic and community development. It creates jobs and drives tribal economies. It is a basic need that can strengthen progress in other areas like education and health care, too.

I would like to thank my colleague, Congressman J. D. HAYWORTH for his dedication to Native American issues, and for working so diligently toward the passage of this bill. It is my hope that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will support this bill for what it is—a renewed commitment to the well-being of the Native American people of this nation. Thank you.

CALLING FOR AN END TO THE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF REF- UGEES

SPEECH OF

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 349 that I introduced earlier this year to call attention to the terrible exploitation that has occurred within the refugee camps in West Africa and elsewhere in the world.

Since this legislation was introduced, some progress has been made in resolving the matter of sexual abuse of refugee women and girls living in UNHCR camps.

According to a recent letter I received from the Washington Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, a number of new procedures have been introduced by that organization to take preventive action. New guidelines have been set for field staff in Africa and in other regions of the world. UNHCR has stated "there is absolutely no place in the humanitarian community for those who exploit others," and emphasizes the need for strict adherence to a 'zero-tolerance' policy.

It also is important to note that the U.N. Office of Internal Oversight Services has carried out more than 250 interviews in the field on this matter and will issue its report to the U.N. General Assembly during this year's session.

However, Mr. Speaker, despite these efforts, much more work is needed to resolve the existing problem. The matter of sexual abuse of women and children remains a real threat, especially for those who have already been dispossessed from their homelands and who face uncertain futures as refugees.

On this issue, we now know that the lives of refugee women and their children are at stake. The poor quality of life in many refugee settings can lead to sexual violence, abuse and harassment of children.

This is what appears to have occurred in the refugee camps located in Sierra Leone,

Guinea and Liberia and now Zimbabwe and possibly elsewhere. Young girls are defenseless in the face of such exploitation and therefore we must be their champions wherever such evil is found in the world.

It is appalling that local aid workers of international and local humanitarian agencies and NGOs, and even perhaps some members of peacekeeping forces, have been accused of carrying out this sexual exploitation.

Mr. Speaker, my Resolution commends the Secretary General of the United Nations for his forthright stand on this matter and expresses support for the comprehensive investigation that he launched to look into this scandalous situation. When I and several other Members of the Women's Caucus met with Mr. Annan in New York in April, he expressed his deep appreciation for our concern and indicated that, along with the global U.N. investigation underway, he believed that more women should help manage these camps to avoid future exploitation.

Part of the lack of protection of refugee children's rights comes from too little money. Although the United States contributes about 22 per cent of the budget of UNHCR, the funding from all donors is inadequate. Increased resources are a must if better physical protection is to be made available for women and their children. These refugee settlements are often large operations and are quite complex to run.

Due to decreased funding, UNHCR and its NGO partners have had to cut staff and drop supervision of many services. This has led to the U.N.'s guidelines on protecting refugee women and child rights not being fully implemented. Obviously, we must strive to commit more funding to U.N. agencies dealing with refugees, so that the camps become a less dangerous environment for women and children.

My measure also calls on the President to reaffirm the commitment of the United States to protect the well-being and human rights of women and girls as well as to review under USAID and the Department of Agriculture, the distribution of U.S. food assistance to refugee communities around the world.

We cannot allow girl children to become sexual pawns because they do not have enough food to eat. This situation really should not be tolerated. It is distressing that many girls feel compelled to exchange sexual favors for food because their food rations cannot last a month and their families go hungry. This lack of sufficient food is something that the American people would want to do something about.

Mr. Speaker, I thought that it was important to highlight this issue and to show that our Government takes the matter of abuse of human rights seriously wherever it is found. The President must affirm this principle on the part of the American people. Hopefully, the final report of the U.N. investigation will make recommendations about the disciplining of those who sexually exploit children. I firmly believe that prompt action must be taken to bring those who have brought shame upon the honorable profession of giving service to refugees—the dispossessed of the earth—to full account.

Mr. Speaker, we are now facing a serious food crisis in southern and eastern Africa. Famine is ravishing these countries along with the AIDS pandemic. A large proportion of ref-

ugee women and children are suffering as a result. We must do all that we can to help protect them from any form of exploitation—sexual or otherwise that can arise from their vulnerable situation. I urge passage of this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO KEWEENAW NA- TIONAL HISTORIC PARK ON ITS TENTH ANNIVERSARY

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 17, 2002

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to an important part of the economy, culture and education of the Copper Country of Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Keweenaw National Historic Park on its tenth anniversary.

Keweenaw National Historic Park became a reality on October 27, 1992 when Public Law 102-543 was signed into law by President George Herbert Walker Bush. The park's creation was first mentioned in 1971. The effort began in earnest in 1982 and culminated with the establishment of America's three hundred sixty sixth national park ten years ago.

The twin purposes in establishing the park were preserving the nationally significant historical cultural sites and structures on Michigan's Keweenaw Peninsula for the education, benefit, and inspiration of present and future generations; and to interpret the historical synergism between the geological, aboriginal, sociological, cultural, technological, and corporate forces that relate the story of copper on the Keweenaw Peninsula and the entire nation.

Seventeen cooperating sites comprise the Keweenaw National Historic Park. Each separate site tells a different part of the story of the Copper Country's significant role in the American Industrial Revolution. Coupled with the area's natural beauty, the park draws more and more visitors each year.

The park has been growing in assets and visitors year by year and during the tenth anniversary celebration the Keweenaw National Historic Park Headquarters will be dedicated. The park headquarters will be located in a one hundred five year old office building, that formerly served as the Calumet & Hecla (C&H) Company's general office building. Refurbishing efforts are currently underway at two former mining related sites, the C&H library, that will serve as the Keweenaw History Center and at an old union hall. These sites and the fourteen other cooperating park sites tell the unique story of the copper miners' (many from foreign countries) migration to Michigan's Upper Peninsula in a sociological and historical context.

The idea of bringing curious historical visitors to the area has been accepted by the public and private sectors of the Keweenaw Peninsula. The coalition of area residents and businesses foresaw the educational benefits that accurate historic preservation would provide to residents and visitors alike. Commemorating and interpreting the history of hard rock mining in the Keweenaw has provided an economic boom to the area not seen since the boom days of the Calumet & Hecla and Quincy Mining Companies.