

who elect to take full responsibility for their care, their upbringing, and their overall well-being is an important service not only to these children, but to our country at large.

Adoption not only provides obvious benefits to the affected child, but it has proven to be one of the most rewarding experiences for many adoptive parents. We all benefit when a needy child is adopted.

The County of Onondaga in New York's 25th Congressional District will be recognizing the importance of adoption on Friday, November 22nd in ceremonies at Onondaga County Family Court. It is my privilege to recognize and thank all those families, case workers, and staff gathered for this important event who have dedicated themselves to improving the welfare of our community's children. It is my hope that this recognition further promotes the importance and benefits of adoption for all those involved. I thank all those responsible for organizing this special local observance of National Adoption Awareness Month.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDIAN ROCK NATURE PRESERVE, BRISTOL, CT

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2002

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize an outstanding organization, Environmental Learning Centers of Connecticut. I join them in celebrating a special milestone, the 25th anniversary of their Indian Rock Preserve located in Bristol, Connecticut.

The Environmental Learning Centers of Connecticut has been a leader in Environmental Education and open space land preservation. They reach over 30,000 students a year from more than 180 schools in Connecticut. They currently own and manage over 525 acres of open space in Connecticut and are adding more land each year.

The organization was founded in 1969 as a not-for-profit charitable organization for land preservation and environmental education with the original purchase of 40 acres of land on Shrub Road, Bristol. Shortly thereafter they completed construction of the Harry C. Barnes Memorial Nature Center on Shrub Road and began educational programs dealing with the environment. Today, the Barnes Nature Center provides the public with many exhibits and a library. This facility is open to the public without charge.

In 1977, they received the 150 acre Indian Rock Nature Preserve and enlarged their educational programs with the opening of the farm life program for elementary schools and a summer day camp for youth. In 1986, the organization constructed a 3,300 square foot building on the preserve to accommodate growing educational programs and the summer camp. Just recently, they completed construction of 1,200 square foot addition to accommodate their continued growth. The Center provides over 130 different educational subject topics for organized schools and groups throughout the year.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that Environmental Learning Centers of Connecticut is an organization of great dedication and commitment to their mission and to the citizens of Con-

necticut. Their success is well earned and I am honored to share their accomplishments with the House of Representatives and the nation. The accomplishments of this organization are many and it is my privilege to congratulate them on the 25th anniversary of the Indian Rock Nature Preserve. Environmental Learning Centers of Connecticut, congratulations, and all the best to you in your future endeavors.

CHINA'S MILITARY THREAT AGAINST TAIWAN

HON. EARL F. HILLIARD

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2002

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, it seems Beijing is applying a two-pronged Taiwan policy. On one hand, Beijing talks peace about Taiwan. It demands Taiwan accept their "one country, two systems" formula of unification. This is their soft prong. If Taiwan is unwilling to negotiate peace under this formula, there is the hard prong—Beijing continuing to conduct military exercises around Taiwan. In fact, in recent months, Beijing has deployed 400 tactical guided missiles on China's eastern coast, less than 200 miles from Taiwan. As sophisticated weapons, these missiles can hit targets in Taiwan easily.

Beijing's undisguised military intimidations against Taiwan pose a serious threat to the well-being of the 23 million people on Taiwan. After all, Republic of China President Chen Shui-bian has assured Chinese leaders that he wants a structured, constructive cross-strait relationship, setting no preconditions for resumption of talks. He has continued to express his good will, exercising utmost restraint to avoid provoking China while liberalizing restrictions on socioeconomic ties between Taiwan and China.

Unfortunately China has chosen to ignore President Chen's overtures, continued its efforts to interfere with democratic elections on Taiwan, suppressed Taiwan's activities in the international community and threatened Taiwan with military force.

I, however, hope that China will realize that it is good for people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait to live in peace, that China should allow Taiwan to be an equal partner in trade and commerce to China, since both China and Taiwan are now members of the World Trade Organization and that any military action against Taiwan will lead to chaos and destruction for many countries in the region.

For peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region, I urge China to withdraw its missiles and reduce its stockpile. This is a constructive step to avert an arms race and military confrontation. I am pleased to see that the European Parliament has taken steps to urge China to de-escalate tension in the Taiwan Strait, and I hope other countries and other members of Congress will issue similar pleas to China.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY DRAINAGE AREA PROJECT RECOGNIZED WITH TWO AWARDS

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2002

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Los Angeles County Drainage Area Project (LACDA) for recently receiving the Golden Eagle Award at the County of Los Angeles Quality and Productivity Commission's 16th Annual Productivity and Quality Awards Program. The national award follows an earlier honor, when the project was named one of the American Public Works Association's Public Works Projects of the Year.

Since entering Congress, completion of this project has been one of my highest priorities. I was pleased that Congress appropriated \$157 million during the past seven years for this work to be completed five years ahead of schedule. The bipartisan commitment to this project by area members of Congress and the hard work and extraordinary cooperation between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Los Angeles County Public Works Department ensured that construction of LACDA proceeded on an efficient and rapid timetable.

Completion of the LACDA project—which began in 1996—restores flood protection to nearly 500,000 people living in the flood plains of the Los Angeles and Rio Hondo Rivers. Due to the danger of severe flooding, in 1998 the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) mandated that area residents and businesses carry flood insurance at an average cost of \$400 per year. Now that the requirement has been lifted, the County of Los Angeles estimates that property owners will save a collective \$22 million in annual insurance premiums.

The successful completion of this project has been a model for any major public works project. The federal, state, and local agencies involved should be proud of a job well done. Along with flood protection, residents also will enjoy a cleaner, safer environment and more recreational opportunities. As part of the LACDA project, 22 miles of bike and equestrian trails along the Los Angeles River have been improved and enhanced with landscaping, rest stops, and safer signage.

Receiving the American Public Works Association's Public Works Projects of the Year award and being honored with the Golden Eagle Award from the County of Los Angeles is a tribute to the many men and women who envisioned, planned, and finally constructed this important project. I tip my hat to all of them for their fine work and congratulate them on being chosen for these distinguished awards.

TRIBUTE TO CECIL WILLIAMS, JR.

HON. MARION BERRY

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2002

Mr. BERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of Arkansas's finest citizens, Cecil Williams, Jr. I am proud to recognize Mr. Williams in the United States Congress for his invaluable contributions to his profession, his family, his state and his nation.

Mr. Williams was born in Tyronza, Arkansas on October 17, 1932. He grew up working in the fertile cotton fields of Eastern Arkansas before graduating from Wilson High School in 1950. He spent one year at Arkansas State University in Jonesboro and joined the United States Air Force in 1952. As a weather observer in the Air Force, Mr. Williams lived in Alabama, Texas, Illinois and Alaska.

After serving his country in the military, Mr. Williams enrolled at Louisiana State University, where he received a degree in agricultural economics in 1960. After graduation, he spent five years working as a field representative for the National Cotton Council in Louisiana and south Arkansas. While living in Louisiana, Mr. Williams married Barbara Lee Rodgers. They have three sons and currently are the proud grandparents of one granddaughter with a second grandchild on the way.

In 1965, Mr. Williams became executive vice president of the Agricultural Council of Arkansas [ACA] and has now served the members of the ACA for more than 37 years. He has used his experience and expertise to help readers of the ACA newsletter stay informed about the rules and regulations pertaining to farm, environmental and occupational safety and health policy. His influence has assisted policymakers in creating a sound farm policy and farmers in accessing the farm programs available to help them.

He is active in many professional organizations and has served as president of Memphis Agricultural Club and Memphis Society of Association Executives. He was named "Man of the Year" by the Memphis Agricultural Club in 1980. In 1986, Mr. Williams received the prestigious "Man of the Year in Service to Arkansas Agriculture".

On behalf of Congress, I offer my friend, Cecil Williams, Jr., my deepest appreciation and gratitude for his tireless dedication and honorable service to the people of Arkansas and the field of agriculture.

**MAURICE DEAN HENNESSEE: AN
EXTRAORDINARY AMERICAN**

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2002

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Maurice Hennessee of Clio, Michigan. Maurice has used his retirement years to make a difference in the world in which we all live and he has become an important component in spreading democracy and assisting in the infrastructure and educational development of the African nation of Nigeria.

Maurice first served his country while serving as an enlisted man with the United States Air Force's 328th Air Fighter Air Defense Group during the Korean War. Following his tour of duty, he served four years in the Air Force Reserve. He then returned home and began his 38-year career with General Motors Corporation, Buick Motor Division in Flint, Michigan.

However, it was after his retirement from General Motors and during his recovery from experimental surgery to repair a seriously injured foot that Maurice found the path that would lead him to Nigeria. Although he had no

experience in missionary work or fund-raising, Maurice joined Dr. Moses Akpanado's effort to use education to improve the lives of impoverished and disadvantaged Nigerians. Today, there are more than 1000 students who attend the Obong Christian Education System deep in the jungle of Nigeria thanks to those efforts.

Moreover, Maurice and others have expanded their work to include infrastructure improvements and other advancements to provide a healthier and more civilized environment for those living in remote Nigerian communities. There are untold thousands of villagers who now enjoy clean, fresh water as a result of Maurice's determination to dig deep wells. Villages now have power lines, electrical generators, libraries and dormitories all because Maurice and others helped persuade fellow Americans to offer their financial support.

In villages throughout Nigeria, Maurice Hennessee has received many honors. Important buildings on a college campus in that nation bear his name. He has been named Honorary Chief in several villages. In addition, his family has shown him their love and support by becoming involved in his efforts, traveling with him on multiple occasions to Africa, as well as supporting other mission activities in Kenya and Central America with their personal involvement. We owe a debt of gratitude to Maurice, his wife, Earline, and their children, Trina, Gary and Larry, for setting such a fine example of American goodwill.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Maurice and the entire Hennessee family for their dedication in spreading democracy and Christian charity throughout the world and for exemplifying how otherwise ordinary Americans can achieve extraordinary results.

TRIBUTE TO ELBERTA ERIKSSON

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2002

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, we rise today to recognize Elberta Eriksson, who is retiring as the Director of the Family Service Agency of Marin's Multi-cultural Outreach Program after thirty years of dedicated service to her community.

Through the years, Elberta has been committed to community service, dedicated to strengthening families and children and advancing human rights. In the early 1970's, as a professional social worker, Ms. Eriksson was one of the first to bring mental health services to Marin City. Through Operation Give a Damn, a grassroots organization that brought a unique mentoring program to the youth of Marin City, Elberta developed a cultural competency program for professional and paraprofessional mental health providers.

Under Ms. Eriksson's visionary leadership, the Multi-Cultural Outreach Program, sponsored by the Family Service Agency of Marin, was launched. Through this esteemed program, Elberta personally provided hundreds of hours of family counseling as well as supervised graduate students from San Francisco State University during their internship, adding a rich, multi-cultural counseling program for the entire county.

In addition to working full-time and raising her young family, Elberta made time in the evening to work as one of the first hot line volunteers at the Marin Suicide Prevention Center. Always generous with her skills and time, Ms. Eriksson has served on many boards and committees, including the Marin County Human Rights Commission, the Marin County Women's Commission, ISOJL of Marin City, America's Angel Campaign, and the Marin City Community Services District.

Ms. Eriksson has contributed her leadership and commitment to provide a model of the importance of community service with the highest ideals for the benefit of many. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, it is fitting for us to rise today to honor Elberta Eriksson and wish her well in her next adventure.

TRIBUTE TO BUD BROWN

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2002

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Bud Brown for his dedicated efforts to improve the quality of life in our community. His commitment and service to the San Fernando Valley is immeasurable. Throughout his life he has contributed countless hours of community service by supporting various organizations and acting as an effective leader for several groups.

Since his retirement from GTE in 1993, Bud Brown has been a driving force in cultivating relations between the private and public sectors in Los Angeles. His 22 years of experience in the corporate world have been instrumental, in establishing relationships with numerous non-profit organizations throughout the Valley. Bud has found ways to utilize his professional and volunteer talents by serving on the boards of many institutions. Despite his retirement he just recently completed his eighth year as Community Relations Manager at Hamer Toyota in Mission Hills.

During his career in public service he has served as founder and leader of a variety of local organizations. His commitment includes serving as President of New Directions for Youth, Board member of the Fernando Award Foundation, and Major Gifts Committee for the North Valley Family YMCA. He is also a strong supporter of the Holy Cross Medical Center, Mission Hills Chamber of Commerce, and the Los Angeles Mission College Foundation. More recently, he has expanded his efforts to serve as Commissioner for the City of San Fernando.

Bud Brown has been honored with a number of awards in recognition of his accomplishments as a community leader, including the City of Los Angeles Volunteerism Award and KNX Citizen of the Week. Other groups that have noted his tremendous achievements include the San Fernando Valley Girl Scout Council, Encino-Sherman Oaks Optimist Club, Valley Interfaith Council, Heaven on Earth Ranch and the Black American Political Association. Lastly, in 1995 he was one of the first recipients of the prestigious Fernando Award.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Bud Brown, an amazing individual who has dedicated his life for the betterment of the San Fernando Valley.