

the years speaks truth to that assertion.) First, on my personal staff, Patrick Sheehan, my Counsel and Legislative Director, has been a dynamic and intelligent thinker and leader, who offered sage advice on immigration, military and veterans affairs; Greg Helman, my Senior Legislative Counsel kept pace with my many Judiciary and legislative demands, especially bankruptcy reform and appropriations (as I would expect from a Palmyra, PA native); Becky Smith, my office manager and health legislative assistant, kept my schedule and personal affairs humming along smoothly and ably managed my most favorite of projects, the Congressional Biomedical Research Caucus of which I was founder and Co-Chairman; David Greineder, who did a multitude of duties as my talented systems manager, legislative correspondent and Legislative Assistant covering education and labor issues; Bill Tighe, another LC and Legislative Assistant whose insights into the Agriculture and Natural Resources needs of Pennsylvania and the district were more than invaluable, they were accurate; Mike Shields, my recent press secretary extraordinaire, who did an excellent job under difficult situations; and, of course, Allan Cagnoli, my long time Chief of Staff from Hershey, PA, a superb leader of the office and jack-of-all-trades who kept the office running and productive no matter what the crisis.

My Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security and Claims, of which I was Chairman, was ably staffed by George Fishman, Lora Ries, Art Arthur, Cynthia Blackston and Emily Sanders, as well as Brian Zimmer of the full Committee staff. They handled the extremely important legislation necessitated by the new domestic and international threats we now face. Their assistance to me during the challenges of this year is impossible to measure. The House of Representatives has much to look forward to with their continued work.

And last but not least, is the Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law, of which I was a member this last Congress but on which I served as Chairman from 1994–2000. On this subcommittee we dealt with the hundreds of regulator reform issues developed by the Republican Majority through the Contract With America and following initiatives. My major Bankruptcy Reform measure began with me in this subcommittee; Administrative Law Judges; Legal Services Reform; the Federal Agency Compliance Act; The Regulatory Fair Warning Act; Executive Orders; Internet Tax reform; the Federal Arbitration Act; Interstate Compacts; the Independent Counsel Act; and many, many other topics. While bankruptcy reform took center stage, there was no end to the amount of topics and work my staff and I pursued. For this I thank them, the current and former staffers of the subcommittee, for all their exceptional work: Chief Counsel Ray Smietanka, who has worked with me as my chief committee counsel since I came to the 98th Congress in 1983; Susan-Jensen Conklin, whose superb work on bankruptcy reform got us where we are today; Rob Tracci, formerly of the Subcommittee, was an invaluable source of assistance; and all the other members of the CAL staff who have helped this Member of Congress over the many productive years. I thank them all for their work to the Nation and me.

To all I have mentioned, and those who I have regrettably not, please accept my sincere

thanks for making my tenure in the United States House of Representatives a productive and pleasant one. Any current Member of Congress or Committee would be well served by the high-quality staff with whom it has been my pleasure to work over these many years.

HONORING JOHN KORREY

HON. BOB SCHAFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. SCHAFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor John Korrey of Iliff, CO, who recently received the 2002 World Champion Livestock Auctioneer title.

John is an extraordinary auctioneer, a skill that is highly admired in eastern Colorado. His talent helps ranchers earn top dollar for their stock. In fact, John has received other top accolades for his talent, including the Greater Midwest Champion Livestock Auctioneer in 2002 and International Champion Livestock Auctioneer in 1998. John is only one of four individuals globally to hold these three titles.

John Korrey is a native of Iliff, CO. Raised as a family farmer and rancher, John now runs Korrey Auctions, his own business, and is partner in Premier Livestock Exchange. At home, John enjoys farming with his wife Janna and his daughters Heidi and Lacey.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate John Korrey and ask the House of Representatives to join me in wishing him success as World Champion Livestock Auctioneer.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
MR. AL AKERS

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor Mr. Al Akers upon his retirement as President of the Occoquan Watershed Coalition on December 1, 2002.

Mr. Akers' resume and accomplishments speak for themselves. He holds masters degrees in both business administration and international relations, and he is a graduate of the Advanced Management Programs at the Claremont Graduate School and the University of Southern California. After retiring from the U.S. Army as a major general, Mr. Akers helped launch two companies and was the executive director of a non-profit organization.

Not only does Mr. Akers have an impeccable career on paper, he has had a great and tangible impact on his community. In 1993, he served as chairman of the Superintendent's Community Advisory Counsel for Fairfax County Public Schools. Then, in 1995, he was selected as Lord Fairfax for the Springfield District, and also became a member of the Task Force on Fairfax County Resources and Expenditures. Mr. Akers served as a member of the Lorton Task Force from 1995–1997 and as vice chairman of the Springfield District Council. In addition to serving as vice chairman of this council, Mr. Akers was, and remains a member.

Perhaps one of his most significant contributions has been his work with the Occoquan Watershed Coalition, an all-volunteer organization committed to the protection of "The Downzoned Occoquan Watershed" and drinking water it provides. Mr. Akers served as vice president of the Occoquan Watershed Coalition from 1994–1999, in addition to serving as the coalition's representative to the Fairfax County Federation of Citizen's Association since 1995.

It is his tenure as President of the Occoquan Watershed Coalition we recognize today.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, it is with great pleasure that I extend a wholehearted thank you to Mr. Al Akers. His contributions to Virginia and his community have been great. Virginia is proud to have such a distinguished citizen in its professional and social community. I call upon my colleagues to join me in applauding him for all that he has done.

LEBANESE INDEPENDENCE DAY

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate, but not celebrate Lebanon's Independence Day. Fifty-nine years ago, Lebanon gained its independence from France. Yet, today, Lebanon is no longer a sovereign and independent country. With 25,000 Syrian troops occupying Lebanon, it remains firmly in the grip of Damascus, without the ability to conduct its own affairs without first seeking the approval of the Assad regime.

More than 2 years ago, Israel completely withdrew its armed forces from southern Lebanon. This withdrawal was certified by the United Nations. The time is long past due for Syria to leave, as well, and for the Lebanese to run Lebanon.

As the author of the Syria Accountability Act, I thank the 172 members of the U.S. House of Representatives and the 45 members of the Senate who joined as cosponsors of our legislation. We have together shined a bright light on the injustice of the continuing Syrian occupation of Lebanon and have only added to the growing campaign to liberate Lebanon.

So, on this 59th anniversary of Lebanese independence, I stand with the Lebanese people who seek freedom and democracy for their beautiful country and peace for the entire region. It is my hope that some time soon, Lebanese Independence Day will not only be a commemoration, but will once again be a celebration.

HONORING PATTI REILLY

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Patti Reilly upon her retirement as Mariposa County District I Supervisor. Patti Reilly has shown her dedication to the citizens of Mariposa and District I through years of active involvement and leadership.

Patti Reilly has demonstrated her community involvement through her years of service on numerous projects, boards and commissions. She was first elected to the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors in 1994 and re-elected for her second term in 1998, serving as Chair the same year. On the board she served as liaison member to the Fiscal and Education Services, the Health and Human Service areas, and on Yosemite Park issues.

Patti Reilly has helped shape the future of Mariposa by serving on the Planning Commission and acting as Chair of both the Local Transportation Commission and the Housing Authority of the County of Mariposa. She has championed economic development, education, justice, and youth development.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Patti Reilly for her years of service to Mariposa and for her distinguished community involvement. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Patti Reilly many more years of continued success.

PAT FINUCANE REPORT IN NORTHERN IRELAND

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on the London Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sir John Stevens to expeditiously complete the report on the February 1989 killing of Pat Finucane in Belfast. Sir Stevens has been investigating this case for almost 3 years.

Pat Finucane was shot and killed by British-Loyalist paramilitaries while he sat eating a Sunday meal with his wife and three children. Since his murder in 1989, Amnesty International and the United Nations have called on the British Government to investigate any collusion between the RUC/British Government officials and the Loyalist paramilitaries. Unfortunately, after 3 years of investigation still no report has been made public.

Prior to being murdered, Mr. Finucane was a human rights lawyer who defended several individuals that were detained by the RUC. According to the UDA, Ulster Defense Association, which claimed responsibility for his murder, Mr. Finucane was profiled as an individual who was helping support the pro-catholic, pro-Republican cause in Northern Ireland.

Last week, Sir John Stevens announced, for a second time, that the Finucane report would be delayed as a result of a British military witness being reluctant to speak to the police. Stevens claims that the report will be released 'before next spring', however, there continues to be speculation that the report may be delayed further should a public inquiry be ordered.

There are few who will dispute the facts in this case. According to Brian Nelson, a former British military intelligence agent who also served as chief intelligence officer of the UDA, he directly assisted in the targeting of Pat Finucane and passed a photograph of Pat Finucane to a UDA member just days before the killing. However, Mr. Nelson claims have never been examined in an open court.

To date no one has been prosecuted for the murder of Pat Finucane.

The facts in this case seem quite straightforward—once again a pro-Loyalist police force used its authority to further sectarian rule and continue the rash of violence against the Catholic Community.

I call on Prime Minister Tony Blair and London Metropolitan Police Commissioner Stevens to finally release the current report and then immediately open a full public inquiry into this matter. My hope is that by putting an end to this long drawn-out process we can bring both justice to the individuals who undertook this gruesome act and take steps to ensure that this doesn't happen again.

This whole matter once again reinforces my belief that for too long both the British government, along with their police force, and the Loyalist paramilitary groups in Northern Ireland have worked in tandem to usurp the rights of the Catholic Community.

A full public inquiry into this matter will show the world that the only way peace can last in Northern Ireland is for a full fair and just reform in policing in Northern Ireland. Northern Ireland must immediately implement all of the Patten Commission's recommendations on policing.

Mr. Speaker, if there is to be a just and lasting peace in Northern Ireland we must learn from what happened to Pat Finucane and ensure that it never happens again.

HONORING MS. LESLIE TOURIGNY

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to thank Ms. Leslie Tourigny for serving the residents of the Seventh Congressional District in her capacity as an American Political Science Association Fellow.

Ms. Tourigny spent the last year making significant contributions in the areas of: Postal Reform, Civil Service, and Defense issues. She also did an outstanding job of responding to constituent mail and inquiries.

Ms. Tourigny came to my office with more than 29 years of experience in the Federal Government. The ideas that she brought and passion for public service enhanced my office greatly. She operated as a senior staff person, and was willing to go the extra mile. Her attention to detail and diligence were greatly appreciated.

As Leslie returns to the Defense Intelligence Agency I wish her well. Again, on behalf of the residents of the Seventh Congressional District, I commend and congratulate Leslie for her outstanding work.

PASSAGE OF H.R. 4750

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give sincere thanks to Chairman HANSEN, Ranking Member RAHALL and the staff of the Resources Committee for their efforts to move H.R. 4750 through this chamber in the final hours of the 107th Congress. I am

pleased to inform you Mr. Speaker, that the other body has passed this legislation as well and it is on its way to the President. This legislation designates as wilderness more than 50,000 acres of land in the Central Coast of California, adding another jewel in the crown of Big Sur.

Mr. Speaker, since this legislation passed without committee action, it was not possible to get a Committee Report so I want to inform you of my intentions in regard to H.R. 4750. The Big Sur region is a rough, wild, sparsely populated area full of scenic vistas and should be managed as such. In regard to wilderness fire management, it would be beneficial to have a management plan for the Ventana and Silver Peak areas prepared, following their designation as wilderness, that would authorize the Forest Supervisor of the Los Padres National Forest to take whatever appropriate actions are necessary for fire prevention and watershed protection. This would include, but not be limited to, acceptable fire suppression and fire suppression measures and techniques. Any special provisions contained in the management plan for the Ventana and Silver Peak Wilderness areas should be incorporated in the planning for the Los Padres National Forest.

This language is a slight modification of language enacted in 1977 as part of the legislation initially designating the Ventana wilderness area. The thought is that current language be as close to original language as possible. Local USFS staff have indicated that under normal agency procedures, the decision to utilize this existing authority would have to be made at the regional forester level or higher. The practical impact is that the existing authority has never been used. This language seeks to make the existing authority more useful by authorizing the decision at the forest supervisor level.

Mr. Speaker, in regard to military training at Fort Hunter-Liggett, I suggest that we do nothing to preclude existing low level overflights of military aircraft, the designation of new units of special airspace, or the use or establishment of military flight training routes over wilderness areas. In regard to military access all non-motorized access to and use of the wilderness areas designated by this Act for military training should be permitted to continue in the same manner and degree as permitted prior to enactment, subject to reasonable regulation by the land manager. This language will apply to the proposed wilderness areas adjacent to Fort Hunter-Liggett. The non-motorized use language covers a variety of training activities that the military has undertaken in the National Forest. Currently, the two agencies have an MOU that governs such activities. I would encourage a new MOU be developed to account for the change to wilderness.

Mr. Speaker, the Central Coast is a unique ecosystem in itself. For example, only in this area will you find giant redwoods growing in the same drainage as a yucca plant. Because of this great diversity our area faces constant assaults by invasive species. The spread of invasive species continues to inflict great damage to the Big Sur region's environment. Such plant species as South American pampas grass, genesta (French broom) from southern Europe, and cape ivy from South Africa have taken over large areas of the Big Sur region. In addition, a cross breed of feral and wild pig has become very prolific in many areas of Big