

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

Sur. These pigs plough up native plants which destroys habitat for native animals and opens the way for many non native plants to colonize the disturbed ground. On their own, each of these species has inflicted major adverse changes to the Big Sur landscape. Their combined assault has resulted in the displacement of entire native communities.

Mr. Speaker, the federal government has invested millions of dollars in acquiring land for conservation in the Big Sur region. A program of this type would help prevent the ecological value of that investment from being destroyed. This region needs a program to target the eradication of invasive plant and animal species in the Monterey District of the Los Padres National Forest. In addition nearly private or other non USFS property where the property owner seeks the assistance and where the invasive species are present on that property pose a threat to national forest lands and should be included as well.

Mr. Speaker, I want to see the transfer USFS land currently occupied by Pacific Valley School under special use permit to the Pacific Valley School District. The amount of land to be transferred should not exceed the school's existing footprint (approximately 5 acres). Also, the transfer should include reversionary language that would require transfer back to the Forest Service if the School District ever gave up use of the land. The Pacific Valley School serves the residents of the rural southern Big Sur Coast. It has approximately 40 students in grades K-8. The school has occupied a site on USFS property under a special use permit for approximately 35 years. The school itself consists of 6 portable buildings arranged on a series of concrete and asphalt pads. Over the years the school has had a good relationship with the Forest Service. The major problem is the inflexibility that the special use permit arrangement imposes on the school's site management. Generally, any changes the school wants to make to the site have to be cleared by the Forest Service. Even if a change, for example the addition of a student garden or replacing a set of building steps, may not need Forest Service approval, the uncertainty of whether it does have a chilling effect on any activity. This transfer is intended to resolve the potential conflict and release the USFS from acting as a school site manager.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I feel we should authorize the construction and maintenance of a new water line and corresponding spring box improvements adjacent to an existing domestic water service in the Silver Peak Wilderness Area in the Los Padres National Forest. The water system in question serves two adjacent properties located just outside the existing Silver Peak Wilderness Area boundary established in 1992. Both parcels are 10 acres and are located in the west ¼ of the south ¼ of the southwest ¼ of the southeast ¼ of section 14 in township 24 south, range 5 east, MDB&M. Both parcels have drawn water from the same spring for over 40 years. A single pipeline runs from the spring box located in the wilderness and delivers water to the two parcels in succession. The 1992 act creating the Silver Peak Wilderness Area grandfathered this system into the wilderness. However, Monterey County ordinances now implementing state and federal law treat the system as a water distribution system which requires it to comply with the treatment and storage

needs of a larger system serving multi-households. The owners of the two parcels want to lay a new separate pipeline alongside the existing line so that they become two separate individual systems and thus free of the cost of complying with the multiple hook-up requirements.

Mr. Speaker, I once again want to thank all those that made passage of this legislation possible. Protection of these resources is of great benefit to all.

HONORING BENEDICT KUPCHO ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today to join Coginchaug Regional High School and the community of Durham, Connecticut in paying tribute to Benedict Kupcho as he celebrates his retirement after thirty-seven years of service. An educator, colleague, and friend, Mr. Kupcho has been an invaluable resource to the students and faculty of Coginchaug Regional High School and the residents of Durham throughout his career.

I have often spoke of our nation's need for talented, creative educators ready to help our students learn and grow. Mr. Kupcho is just that kind of teacher. His commitment and dedication has touched the lives of thousands of our young people. Mr. Kupcho has enriched his students lives ensured that they have a strong foundation on which to build their futures—making a real difference in all of their lives. Coginchaug Regional High School has been fortunate to have benefitted from his many years of service.

I have had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Kupcho on several occasions throughout my career in the House of Representatives and I am always in awe of his seemingly unending enthusiasm and excitement. For twenty-two years, Mr. Kupcho has organized Coginchaug's annual trip to Washington, D.C.—bringing over two thousand students to our nation's capital throughout five separate administrations. Through wind, rain, sleet and snow, he has worked tirelessly to ensure that his students were given the opportunity to visit Washington and experience how our government works. I have always held a firm belief in the importance of engaging our young people in the democratic process and in assuring that they have a voice here in Washington. Mr. Kupcho's dedication is a reflection of this ideal and our community owes him a great debt of gratitude for all that he has done on behalf of our young people.

As a track coach and student advisor, Mr. Kupcho has also acted as a mentor to many students—truly helping to shape their lives outside of the classroom as well. In addition to his many professional contributions at Coginchaug Regional High School, Mr. Kupcho has also been active in the Durham community. One of the most popular and longest running events in Connecticut, the Durham Fair has long been the beneficiary of Mr. Kupcho's time and energy. Attracting thousands of people from across the state, the Durham Fair is a major event for the small

community of Durham. The name Benedict Kupcho is almost synonymous with the parking organization for the Fair and it has been his efforts that have enabled its many attendees to enjoy this wonderful annual event.

It is with great pleasure and my very best wishes for continued health and happiness that I stand today and extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Benedict Kupcho for all of his good work throughout his thirty-seven years with Coginchaug Regional High School. Though he will certainly be missed, he has left an indelible mark on the Durham community and a legacy that will inspire others for many years to come.

IN HONOR OF RABBI STUART WEINBLATT

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rabbi Stuart Weinblatt on his 50th birthday and in recognition of the tremendous work he has done on behalf of others. Rabbi Weinblatt and his wife Symcha are the parents of four wonderful children, Ezra, Margalit, Micha, and Noam. He is the founding Rabbi of Congregation B'nai Tzedek, a Conservative synagogue in Potomac, Maryland, to which I belong, serving more than 620 families. Prior to forming Congregation B'nai Tzedek in 1988, Rabbi Weinblatt was the Rabbi of Temple Solel in Bowie, Maryland, for seven years and Temple Beth Am in Miami, Florida, from 1979-1981.

Rabbi Weinblatt is active in a number of local and national organizations, including the National Rabbinic Cabinet of the UHC, Hillel at the University of Maryland, the Jewish National Fund, Israel Bonds, the Jewish Community Council, where he chaired a committee on Jewish Life and Culture, and the Federation of Greater Washington, where he chaired the Super Sunday effort several years ago. Rabbi Weinblatt has also served as President of the Washington Board of Rabbis. He has been an adjunct professor of Jewish History and Theology at Wesley Theological Seminary since 1992. His dynamic leadership, innovative approach to Judaism and reputation as an outstanding teacher and speaker has earned him many honors, including selection as a Bronfman Fellow by CLAL and as a fellow in the Shalom Hartman Institute Center for Rabbinic Enrichment program. In recognition of his outstanding leadership and community involvement, he was chosen in 2001 as the Washington area ORT "Man of the Year." He is a strong and vocal supporter of the State of Israel.

I met Stuart Weinblatt when I was first running for Congress, 14 years ago, when we were seated at the same table, by chance, at a dinner. I had no idea that years later I would become a member of a new synagogue that was opening with him at the helm. I have followed this man all these years, and have watched him and the synagogue grow in stature. His sermons are always remarkable and inspiring.

Mr. Speaker, Rabbi Weinblatt's years of service to his community and the nation have