

The ceremony will include a special rededication ceremony of the Booker T. Washington Tree, which Colonel Young named in 1903. People initially wanted to name the tree after Colonel Young to honor his service to the park; he refused and instead named the tree after his friend, Booker T. Washington. Sometime over the ensuing 99 years the sign on the tree disappeared and the tree became lost. Park staff was able to relocate the tree in 2002 utilizing historical photos of the tree and surrounding forest. The rededication ceremony will be used to highlight Colonel Young's accomplishments during Colonel Young's time as superintendent.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor the centennial celebration of Colonel Charles Young. I urge my colleagues to join me in posthumously recognizing Colonel Charles Young for his dedication and service to Sequoia National Park.

HONORING JUDY GAITHER

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2003

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Judy Gaither who is retiring from the Executive Directorship of the Human Investment Project (HIP) for Housing, a non-profit group that provides affordable housing in San Mateo County, after serving with distinction for almost eight years.

Mrs. Gaither joined HIP Housing as a senior citizens housing specialist in 1984, and has served as director for several of the organization's programs before being named Executive Director in 1995.

Mrs. Gaither has earned countless honors and awards. She was selected as an honoree for Women's History Month by KQED, and was inducted into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame in 2002. She sits on the board of directors for the San Mateo Area Chamber of Commerce, the board of the Housing Action Team, and is board Chairperson for the Housing Leadership Council of San Mateo County.

Mrs. Gaither's passion for helping adults, children and seniors in need has been the driving force behind her extraordinary work. Under her leadership HIP Housing has expanded dramatically, acquiring 177 apartment units for low- and fixed-income residents of San Mateo County during her tenure, including a 92-unit apartment complex for seniors and 11 housing units for people with developmental and physical disabilities. HIP Housing has also grown into an organization with a significant budget, of which an extraordinary 85 percent goes directly to client services.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Judy Gaither for her extraordinary service to our community and our country, and wish her every blessing in her well-earned retirement.

IN HONOR OF THE FRIENDS OF THE PATUXENT RESEARCH REFUGE'S RECEIPT OF A 2003 CHESAPEAKE BAY GATEWAYS NETWORK GRANT

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2003

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Friends of the Patuxent Research Refuge. Friends of the Patuxent Research Refuge received a 2003 Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network Grant to construct a pilot demonstration Schoolyard Habitat site at Patuxent Research Refuge's National Wildlife Visitor Center.

The Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network, which includes more than 120 museums, state parks, wildlife refuges and other sites in five States and the District of Columbia, was created to enhance the experience of visitors to the Chesapeake Bay and its many roads, rivers and trails. Authorized by the Chesapeake Bay Initiative Act of 1998, the Gateways Network is coordinated by the National Park Service in partnership with the Chesapeake Bay Program.

During the past four years, Gateways Network Grants have funded new maps, improved signs, and expanded trails that have made visits to parks, wildlife refuges and water trails even more exciting and enjoyable than they had previously been. These grants help enhance the public's ability to learn and enjoy the Chesapeake's stories and significance, explore its natural and cultural resources, and become involved in helping conserve and restore the Bay and its watershed. Through these projects and other Gateways Network efforts more and more people recognize the Chesapeake as a true national treasure.

In 2003, the National Park Service is awarding \$1,387,309 in grant funding, matched by over \$2 million in partner contributions. Thirty-two grants are being made to Gateways throughout the Bay watershed in Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania and Virginia. The Friends of the Patuxent Research Refuge is receiving a grant of \$14,457 and \$14,795 in partner contributions.

The project proposed by the Friends of the Patuxent Research Refuge will serve the dual purpose of improving the habitat quality surrounding the National Wildlife Visitor Center and educating the community on BayScaping techniques and Schoolyard Habitats. Volunteers and visitors will help create the project, involving themselves in a direct habitat restoration effort that can stimulate further involvement later. Watershed signs, a walking path, an outdoor classroom, and an indoor kiosk will be used to interpret the habitat site and how it and similar efforts contribute to the Chesapeake Bay's health.

Mr. Speaker, it is with the assistance and vision of organizations such as the Friends of the Patuxent Research Refuge that the Chesapeake Bay and the entire region has become the treasure that we know it to be today. Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Friends of the Patuxent Research Refuge on receiving this grant and wishing them the best of luck in completing their project.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
RAYMOND A. REDDIN

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2003

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the work of an outstanding individual who I am honored to call my friend. Raymond A. Reddin officially took his oath of office as a New Jersey Superior Court Judge in the County of Passaic on Wednesday, August 20, 2003.

The Honorable Raymond Reddin has dedicated the past twenty-four years to tirelessly serving the men and women of Passaic County. It is only fitting that he be honored, in this, the permanent record of the greatest freely elected body on earth.

Raymond Reddin first decided upon a career in law after graduating from Montclair State University in 1975. He went on to attend Widener University's Delaware Law School, graduating in 1978, with a Juris Doctor Degree. That same year he passed the New Jersey bar exam, becoming a licensed attorney in his home state.

Ray's career in law is as colorful as it is long. Opening a private practice in the city of Paterson in 1979, Ray immediately began to demonstrate his strong personal commitment to justice. Focusing primarily on criminal matters, personal injury, and civil litigation, Raymond Reddin soon began to take on a number of high profile cases in which he represented police officers, doctors, political figures, professional athletes, and several celebrities.

A native of Paterson, New Jersey, Ray Reddin has continued to give back to the community in which he was raised, serving the people of Passaic County both in and out of the courtroom. He has lectured at the Passaic County Police Academy, is a past member of the Passaic County Judicial Selection Committee, a participant in the Robert Clifford Inns of Court Program, and a past President of the Passaic County Ethics Committee. In each of these positions, he has brought a youthful enthusiasm and years of expertise. I am confident that he will bring these same qualities to his new assignment in the Criminal Division of the New Jersey Superior Court.

Mr. Speaker, the job of a United States Congressman involves so much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing individuals who have devoted themselves to serving the special needs of the people in their community. Judge Reddin's long history of leadership, integrity, and service to the people of Paterson and Passaic County is unparalleled.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, Ray's family and friends, and me in recognizing the invaluable service of the Honorable Raymond Reddin.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2003

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, on the legislative day of July 25, 2003, the House

had a procedural vote on H.R. 2859, the FY 2003 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations bill. On House rollcall vote No. 448, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING PARADISE BAPTIST
CHURCH

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2003

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Paradise Baptist Church of Oakland, and its pastor, Reverend Leon McDaniels, Sr. Today marks the dedication celebration of the new Paradise Baptist Church Worship Center.

Paradise Baptist Church had its beginning in February 1960. Rev. C. William Johnson was the assistant pastor at the First Baptist Parchester Church of Richmond, California when he was called to begin a church in the Columbian Gardens area of Oakland. He set out with four volunteers and went door to door sharing their vision for a new community of the spirit. In May 1960, a meeting was called and the Paradise Baptist Mission was organized. In August of that year, Paradise was officially founded and established as the Paradise Baptist Church with Rev. C. William Johnson as pastor.

Paradise Baptist Church has had many homes over the years. Early on, Pastor Johnson purchased a home with his Veterans Administration certificate and converted it into a house of worship. In November 1963, a house on Empire Road was purchased, and the church moved to this location.

By 1968, a larger facility was needed. A church was constructed adjacent to the house where the congregation had been worshipping, but by 1970 even that building was too small. Many of the faithful financed the building project by taking out second mortgages and borrowing funds which they donated unconditionally. On the third Sunday of August 1972, the new sanctuary was complete.

Over the next 10 years, Paradise experienced substantial growth, and in 1988, Pastor Johnson brought in Rev. Leon McDaniels, Sr. as the full-time evangelism coordinator. Rev. McDaniels' spark and enthusiasm spread throughout the entire church body.

On September 17, 1993, Pastor Johnson's time on earth came to an end, leaving the Paradise family filled with grief. Following a period of mourning, Rev. Leon McDaniels, Sr. took office as the new pastor and vowed to make a significant difference in the Columbian Gardens community, and in all of Oakland.

There has been great growth during the tenure of Pastor McDaniels. Today, numerous ministries are available to the congregation, including the Prayer Ministry, Soul-Winning Ministry, Christian Education Training, Alpha Omega Youth Ministry, Pastoral Care, Wistar Redemption and Recovery, Inc., Financial Management, Real Estate Ministry (the HUD Home Buyers Program), Married Couples Ministry, Singles Ministry, Camp Ministry and Political Liaison Ministry.

Pastor McDaniels realized a larger facility was sorely needed. By faith, the groundbreaking ceremony was held in August 17, 1997. Once again, the membership

stepped in and made contributions and personal sacrifices in their commitment to further the ministry.

The congregation has been blessed with the New Paradise Baptist Church Worship Center located at 9704 Empire Road in Oakland, California.

The Paradise Baptist Church family has come a long way since its humble beginning in 1960. Rev. C. William Johnson knew 43 years ago that Paradise would make a difference in the city of Oakland. This vision has come to fruition under the leadership of Pastor Leon McDaniels, Sr. with a congregation of more than 400 members and numerous ministries that reach out to the community.

I take great pride in joining friends, family, and the congregation to salute Paradise Baptist Church and its leader, the extraordinary Pastor Leon McDaniels, Sr. on this auspicious dedication.

HONORING GENERAL A.J. COMTE

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2003

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to posthumously recognize General A.J. Comte for his years of distinguished service to his country. A.J. passed away on Sunday, August 3rd.

General Comte began his 50-year military career in 1945 when he enlisted in the U.S. Navy. After four years of active service, he went on to serve in the Air National Guard, Army National Guard, and the U.S. Army Reserve. During his service he received numerous military decorations including: the Army Meritorious Service Medal, WWII Victory Medal, Army Reserve Components Medal, and the California Medal of Merit.

After his service, A.J. worked at the City of Fresno Construction Management Division as Chief Engineering Inspector. Following his retirement, he became self-employed and provided school inspection services in the Bakersfield, Porterville, and Clovis School Districts. He also served as the DSA Inspector of Record for several projects in the Clovis Unified School District including Copper Hills Elementary, the Buchanan Educational Center, and the Reagan Educational Complex.

General Comte was also greatly involved in his community. He was an active 32-Degree Mason; a member of the Fresno Scottish Rite, Clovis Elks, National Sojourners; and active in several military, veteran, and construction associations. He is survived by his wife Trudie; son, Alan James; step-children, Karen Palazzola, Kathy Gray-Wagner, Gordon Gray, Mary Craig, and Carl Husband; and several grand and great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to posthumously honor General A.J. Comte. I invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing General Comte for his extraordinary service and years of dedication to his community.

IN HONOR OF THE POTOMAC
TRAIL COUNCIL'S RECEIPT OF A
2003 CHESAPEAKE BAY GATE-
WAYS NETWORK GRANT

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2003

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker I rise today to recognize the Potomac Trail Council. The Potomac Trail Council received a 2003 Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network Grant for a project designed to improve access and interpretation along a one mile section of trail in Piscataway Park and Fort Washington Park in Accokeek, Maryland.

The Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network, which includes more than 120 museums, state parks, wildlife refuges and other sites in five states and the District of Columbia, was created to enhance the experience of visitors to the Chesapeake Bay and its many roads, rivers and trails. Authorized by the Chesapeake Bay Initiative Act of 1998, the Gateways Network is coordinated by the National Park Service in partnership with the Chesapeake Bay Program.

During the past four years, Gateways Network Grants have funded new maps, improved signs, and expanded trails that have made visits to parks, wildlife refuges and water trails even more exciting and enjoyable than they had previously been. These grants help enhance the public's ability to learn and enjoy the Chesapeake's stories and significance, explore its natural and cultural resources, and become involved in helping conserve and restore the Bay and its watershed. Through these projects and other Gateways Network efforts more and more people recognize the Chesapeake as a true national treasure.

In 2003, the National Park Service is awarding \$1,387,309 in grant funding, matched by over \$2 million in partner contributions. Thirty-two grants are being made to Gateways throughout the Bay watershed in Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania and Virginia. The Potomac Trail Council is receiving a grant of \$40,500 and \$45,300 in partner contributions.

The project proposed by the Potomac Trail Council will make significant improvements to access and interpretation along a one mile section of trail in Piscataway Park. The route, which parallels Piscataway Creek (a tributary of the Potomac River) will be improved through several measures to control erosion and puddling, including the addition of permeable surface materials, french drains, and culverts. Six interpretive waysides and other signs will also be developed to provide trail users with key information and interpret features along the route. The Potomac Trail Council will coordinate work on the project in collaboration with park staff.

Mr. Speaker, it is with the assistance and vision of organizations such as the Potomac Trail Council that the Chesapeake Bay and the entire region has become the treasure that we know it to be today. Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Potomac Trail Council on receiving this grant and wishing them the best of luck in completing their project.