

them two semistate titles, 12 regional championships and 27 sectional crowns. amassed an impressive resume including two undefeated regular season teams before being inducted into the Indiana Basketball Hall of Fame in 1983.

But, Mr. Speaker, while all of Indiana will mourn the passing of an outstanding basketball coach, Bill Stearman's hometown of Columbus, Indiana will mourn the passing of a great man and Christian role model to generations of Columbus High School students, myself included.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the City of Columbus, I extend heartfelt sympathies to Bill Stearman's family, specifically his son Bill, his grandson Sloan and his sister Katherine. Coach Stearman embodied both the Hoosier Hysteria of Indiana high school basketball and the Hoosier Hospitality of Indiana's caring communities. He will be deeply missed.

IN HONOR OF THE 50TH BIRTHDAY
OF THE CITY OF DEL REY OAKS,
CA

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2003

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the City of Del Rey Oaks on celebrating its fiftieth birthday on September 13, 2003. This small residential community on the Monterey Peninsula was incorporated on September 4, 1953 and embodies the best qualities of the Central Coast.

In many ways, Del Rey Oaks is an idyllic town, with its large open space and parkland, low crime and unemployment rates, and high voter turnout. The citizens of Del Rey Oaks are proud of their community, with good reason, and work hard to maintain this quality of life. After fifty years, the town continues to grow, but has not forgotten its humble beginnings.

The city celebrated its birthday and its history with an old fashioned picnic in the park, complete with the planting of oak trees and the burying of a time capsule. This town symbolizes the wonderful nature of the people and communities of the Monterey Peninsula, I am pleased to honor the fiftieth birthday of the City of Del Rey Oaks.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT FLOHR

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to an outstanding citizen from my district. Robert Flohr of Rifle, Colorado has dedicated countless hours to local rodeo clubs for children. His hard work has helped keep the rodeo tradition alive for future generations to enjoy, and I am honored to share his story here today.

For over twenty years, Robert has been volunteering his time and efforts to everything from 4-H to the Little Britches Rodeo Association and local high school rodeo clubs. Chil-

dren are especially dear to Robert's heart, and he focuses on those groups that help and educate children. Robert is currently the President of the Garfield County Fair Board, which is responsible for putting on the county fair. Five hundred children participate in the fair each year, where they learn lessons that will serve them throughout their lives, from the importance of providing consistent care to animals to how to keep a budget.

Mr. Speaker, Robert Flohr's tireless work makes the joy and excitement of the Garfield County Fair possible. His commitment to children and the organizations that serve them is inspirational, and I am honored to join with my colleagues today in recognizing Robert's dedication and commitment to our youth. I wish him the best in his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD NADDER

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2003

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a distinguished American, Richard Nadder, who was finally awarded four medals, 50 years after serving our country in the Korean War: the National Defense Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, the Presidential Unit Citation and the Korean Service Medal with a Bronze Star.

Mr. Speaker, Richard Nadder was drafted in December of 1952 and went to Korea in May, 1953, as a Private with the 3rd Infantry Division. His main duties included hooking up telephone lines to maintain communication in the treacherous terrain of the "Iron Triangle" in Chorwon, North Korea, in the final weeks of the war that cost nearly 37,000 American lives. He has never regretted serving his country and has always been proud to call himself a Korean War Veteran.

Mr. Speaker, six years ago Richard Nadder decided he wanted to obtain these medals as treasured keepsakes for his three grandchildren. After several of his letters went unanswered, Richard contacted Congressman KIRK's office, who then determined his military records had been destroyed in a St. Louis warehouse fire. After much work on the part of the Army and Congressman KIRK's office, Richard Nadder's discharge papers were recreated. With his wife, children, grandchildren and other fellow Korean War veterans looking on, he was finally awarded the medals he earned and deserved.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Richard Nadder. I'm exceedingly proud to honor him for his courageous service to our country and for the honorable life he has led as a husband, father, grandfather, brother and cousin.

INTRODUCTION OF THE YOUTH
WORKER PROTECTION ACT

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2003

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, today, I along with 32 of my colleagues introduced H.R.

3139, the "Youth Worker Protection Act" (YWPA). This legislation is necessary because the exploitation of child labor is a national problem that continues to jeopardize the health, education and lives of many of our nation's children and teenagers. In our farm fields and in fast-food restaurants all over this country, employers are breaking the law by hiring under-age children. This legislation seeks to eliminate the all-too-common exploitation of children working long hours late into the night while school is in session, and working under hazardous and dangerous conditions.

Mr. Speaker, one hundred years ago the state of child labor conditions in our country was so deplorable many children worked 60 or 70-hour weeks in the hardest forms of labor—mines, mills and the fields. These appalling conditions led Mother Jones to lead thousands of children from the mills in Kensington, PA, to President Theodore Roosevelt's home in Oyster Bay, New York. These mill children went on strike demanding that their work schedules be lowered from 60 hours to 55 hours a week.

Today, a century after the famous "March of the Mill Children," working conditions of child labor in our country have noticeably improved. As a result of laws passed after the march, the "Mill Children's" work week was set at 58 hours, and then came the passage of the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) in 1938, which limited hours for children and adults to 40 hours per week.

Despite these advances, there are still significant problems facing America's youth work force. In some ways kids today are working just as long as their "Mill Children" predecessors, especially when one considers the hours a student is in school. While people today often associate the evils of child labor as occurring only in Third World countries, American teenagers are also exploited on the job.

Mr. Speaker, the average time a student is in class is about 7 hours a day, or 35 hours a week. This does not include additional time for extracurricular activities or homework. Going to school is almost a full time job itself. In addition to devoting a minimum of 35 hours a week to their schoolwork, many high-school students are also working 30 to 40 hours a week for some of America's largest corporations, often working well past midnight while simultaneously trying to balance school requirements. When one combines the hours some of today's teens are at school with their hours at work, the 70-hour workweek is still in place.

Research clearly indicates that working more than 20 hours a week in addition to a normal school schedule has a negative effect on student's academic progress. Additional studies show that children who work long hours also tend to use more alcohol and drugs.

Mr. Speaker, this is why I have introduced H.R. 3139, the Youth Worker Protection Act (YWPA), which sets common-sense limits on the hours that students can work during the school year.

Beyond the long hours, many of our nation's teenagers are forced to work in hazardous conditions that threaten their health and safety. Mr. Speaker, I am saddened to report that a young person is killed on the job every five days, and that every 40 seconds a child is injured on the job. It is appalling to learn that in

our great country, the occupational injury rate for children and teens is more than twice as high than it is for adults. In fact, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) estimates that 230,000 teens are injured on the job each year. I am sure my colleagues will agree with me that these statistics are a national disgrace and are totally unacceptable for a civilized, advanced society such as ours. Unless we swiftly enact this legislation, children will continue to be employed in jobs that place their lives in danger.

Mr. Speaker, The YWPA will reduce the problem of children working long hours when school is in session, and it strengthens existing limitations on the number of hours children under 18 years of age can work on school days. The bill would eliminate all youth labor before school, and after-school work would be limited to 15 or 20 hours per week, depending on the age of the child. Additionally our legislation will require better record keeping and reporting of child labor violations. It also prohibits minors from operating or cleaning certain types of unsafe equipment, and prohibits children from working in certain particularly hazardous conditions.

Mr. Speaker, the issues of children working early in the morning or late into the evening is a problem facing our country. Students continuously tell me that working long hours, late into the night negatively affects their school performance, that they are too tired for class, and that the long hours on the job take away from important extra-curricular activities and take away time from their family.

Mr. Speaker, for the past 60 years our nation's agribusinesses have enjoyed special exemptions under the FLSA. Many of these exemptions were based on the historical prominence of the family farm in the American economy. Current labor laws allow children—even those under 10 years of age to be employed in agriculture. Child farm laborers can work unlimited hours before and after school, and they are not even eligible for overtime pay. At the age of 14, or even earlier, children working in agriculture are using knives and machetes, operating dangerous machinery, and are exposed to dangerous toxic pesticides. In no other industry are children so exploited as they are in agriculture. Despite all these dangers, there are no protections for children working on farms and in the fields.

Mr. Speaker, most of today's farms are not owned by families, but by large corporate entities, and deserve to be treated like any other company employing children. Although I am pleased to report the YWPA keeps the existing family farm exemption, I am delighted that it amends the FLSA to treat companies like Archer-Daniels-Midland and Dole just like McDonalds and Wal-Mart, because obtaining parity in the regulations and restrictions of jobs in agriculture and the rest of the economy is long overdue.

Mr. Speaker, I want to make it adamantly clear, as supporters of child labor reform, we do not oppose young people working. We wholeheartedly believe that children need to be taught the value of hard work and to learn the valuable lessons of responsibility and enjoy all the rewards of working. It is not our aim to discourage employers from hiring young people. Rather, our goal is to ensure that the job opportunities available to young people are meaningful, safe and healthy.

What we oppose are the senseless deaths and needless injuries of our teenagers. We

oppose the negative effects on academic achievement that result when children work excessive hours while school is in session. An education, not after-school employment, is the key to a successful future.

Mr. Speaker, the Youth Worker Protection Act modernizes our child labor laws through simple common sense measures. It has been endorsed by numerous organizations, including the AFL-CIO, the NEA, the National Consumer's League, and the Child Labor Coalition. I ask that the letters from the AFL-CIO and the Child Labor Coalition be placed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

I urge my colleagues to consider these much needed protections for our nation's young people and to join me in support of this legislation.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
AND CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS,

Washington, DC, September 23, 2003.

Hon. TOM LANTOS,
House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office
Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE LANTOS: Since its inception, the AFL-CIO has fought to assure safe working conditions for the nation's workforce, especially for young workers, who are among the most vulnerable to long hours and unsafe conditions. By setting specific objectives to assure that young workers work in appropriate employment, for reasonable hours and in safe conditions, the Young Worker Protection Act represents significant progress toward this goal and we strongly support it.

Recent studies indicate that 80 percent of all youth in America work for pay during their high school years. However, such studies also reveal that as many as 148,000 youth are illegally employed in the United States each week. The Young Worker Protection Act would address these concerns by establishing reasonable hours of work and by setting the minimum age for all youth employment at 14 years. It also includes safeguards for appropriate employment by requiring minors under the age of 18 to obtain a work permit prior to employment. Because every year, approximately 230,000 children under the age of 18 are injured on the job, and nearly 70 children each year die from their job-related injuries, the bill updates the list of hazards for young workers and incorporates recommendations made by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health to protect young workers from hazardous equipment, occupations and industries.

The AFL-CIO commends you for taking the lead in promoting improved working conditions for young workers and is pleased to endorse the Young Worker Protection Act.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM SAMUEL,
Director,
Department of Legislation.

CHILD LABOR COALITION,
Washington, DC, August 28, 2003.

Hon. TOM LANTOS
House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office
Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE LANTOS: On behalf of the member organizations of the Child Labor Coalition (CLC), I thank you for your efforts to protect employed youth in the United States. The CLC is pleased to endorse your bill, Youth Worker Protection Act, which promotes safe and appropriate youth employment.

The Child Labor Coalition is a national group that works to protect the health, education, and safety of working minors and to

end child labor exploitation in the U.S. and abroad. The CLC is comprised of more than 50 non-governmental organizations, reflecting educators, health groups, religious and women's groups, human rights groups, consumer groups, labor unions, and child labor advocates.

This bill provides several important updates to the Fair Labor Standards Act. Among these are the following:

Equalizes protections for all working minors. No more will there be differing standards between agricultural and non-agricultural youth employment, which often confuses employers, parents, and youth.

Sets reasonable hours of work. This bill promotes education remaining "job one" for youth in this country, which is best for our youth who will be shortly transitioning into the adult workforce and for our nation which must remain competitive in the global market.

Updates hazards list. This bill incorporates recommendations made by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (2002) to better protect youth from hazardous equipment, occupations, and industries.

The CLC is pleased to endorse this bill and is committed to employing our resources to promote the bill's passage at the earliest time.

Sincerely,

DARLENE ADKINS,
Coordinator.

THE OJITO WILDERNESS ACT

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2003

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to introduce the "Ojito Wilderness Act." This bill designates the Ojito Wilderness Study Area in New Mexico as Wilderness, and takes specific federal public land in New Mexico into trust for the Pueblo of Zia.

This bill establishes the Ojito Wilderness Study Area, an area totaling approximately 12,500 acres, as a permanent wilderness area to be protected pursuant to the 1964 Wilderness Act. The bill also provides for the purchase and transfer of adjacent Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands, contiguous to the established boundaries of the Pueblo of Zia, by the Pueblo. This land, an area totaling approximately 13,000, will then be taken into trust and held for the benefit of the Pueblo by the Secretary of Interior, and would subsequently be managed by the Pueblo in perpetuity as wilderness.

This proposal has been under consideration for many years, and I am pleased to have the opportunity today to take an important step toward making it law. The proposal has the explicit support of the Governor of New Mexico, the counties of Sandoval and Bernalillo, individual members of State government, the Pueblo of Zia and its members, numerous environmental groups, including the New Mexico Wilderness Coalition, the Wilderness Alliance, the Wilderness Society, and the Sierra Club, and business owners, private citizens, and landowners located nearby. Furthermore, the BLM has evaluated this area and found it to have sufficient land area and natural characteristics to qualify for full wilderness status and protection.

The Ojito Wilderness Study Area is characterized by pristine and dramatic landforms and