

control of nuisance seals and sea lions, whose robust populations have been of growing concern in coastal California.

Reauthorize and improve the John H. Prescott funding assistance program to allow an improved nationwide response to stranding and entanglement events.

Clarify the provisions regarding the import and export of Native marine mammal handicrafts.

Modernize the system of penalties and fines for violations of the Act for the first time in 30 years.

Expand the list of fisheries included in the take reduction team process to include both commercial and non-commercial fisheries using comparable gear.

Contrary to the efforts of others in this Congress to weaken the MMPA through strategic piecemeal amendments, I have always urged that the MMPA deserves nothing less than a comprehensive reauthorization.

The Resources Committee Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans, to the immeasurable credit of Chairman WAYNE GILCREST and his predecessor, the former Chairman JAMES SAXTON, invested significant time and resources over the past 4 years in conducting a series of oversight hearings regarding implementation of the Act and needs for reauthorization. This substantive analysis has not been squandered and has, in fact, been incorporated into this legislation.

This bill also reflects the best of the ideas forwarded by the Administration in their proposal regarding priorities and recommendations for reauthorization of the Act. Moreover, this bill incorporates the best ideas offered by a wide range of stakeholders ranging from the sportfishing and public display industries to the animal welfare and environmental communities.

Maintaining protection for marine mammals need not be a contentious or partisan issue. I urge support of this comprehensive and precautionary-minded reauthorization of the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

ALLEN-BRADLEY BRAND MARKS
100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, on January 30, 2003 Rockwell Automation, a world-leading provider of industrial automation power, control and information solutions, began a year-long celebration of the centennial anniversary of the Allen-Bradley Brand. This outstanding company has a rich history and has made major contributions to the automation industry. Allen-Bradley has also played a significant role as a major employer and contributor to the economic and cultural growth of the city of Milwaukee.

The extraordinary transformation story of Allen-Bradley starts with the humble beginnings of two young Bradley brothers starting their business in an office over a delicatessen located on Milwaukee's near south side. Today, Rockwell Automation International Inc. has become a \$4 billion industry leader with more than 22,000 employees in 450 locations around the world—serving customers in more

than 80 countries. This story typifies the American dream and a dream realized beyond expectation.

In 1893 Lynde Bradley at the age of fifteen invented a compression rheostat that had the capability of regulating electrical current. His friend Dr. Stanton Allen offered to invest a thousand dollars to develop a prototype crane controller, which would use the newly invented rheostat control, and a business was born. Subsequently Lynde Bradley and Dr. Allen formed Compression Rheostat in 1903. In 1910 the company was renamed Allen-Bradley. After a series of dissolutions, mergers, and acquisitions Rockwell International purchased the company in 1985 for \$1.651 billion, the largest acquisition in the history of the state of Wisconsin.

Since the start of this company there has been a pioneering spirit that valued innovation, creativity and a constant striving for excellence in products. This spirit has driven the company for 100 years.

The Allen-Bradley Brand is a symbol of great corporate strength, pre-eminence in the industrial controls field and an outstanding example of on-going and continuous support of the Milwaukee community. Thank you and congratulations on this 100th anniversary and continued success in the future.

INTRODUCING THE SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA WILD HERITAGE
WILDERNESS BILL

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Southern California Wild Heritage Wilderness Act. If enacted, this bill will protect approximately 1.6 million acres of land in California.

The State of California has lost over 675,000 acres of California's wild lands since 1978. One can only predict that this harmful trend will continue as California's population is expected to explode. California is expected to gain 17.7 million more people by 2025—nearly the entire population of New York State. As the population rises, more development will take place. More development often means less open space and the destruction of precious lands. This bill will prevent that destruction.

Thousands of diverse organizations, businesses, and others see the importance of this legislation and have given it their support. Additionally, hundreds of local elected officials have voiced support for the protection of their local areas.

I am pleased to be a part of this effort and look forward to working with Senator BOXER and Congressman THOMPSON to spearhead this effort and protect our natural resources.

RECOGNIZING RONN OWENS FOR
RECEIVING THE NATIONAL ASSO-
CIATION OF BROADCASTERS'
MARCONI AWARD

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Ronn Owens, who received the National Association of Broadcasters' prestigious Marconi Award for major market personality of the year on October 2, 2003.

Ronn Owens began his broadcast career in 1968, hosting radio programs in Atlanta, Miami, Cleveland, and Philadelphia before moving to the Bay Area and KGO in 1975.

Over his thirty-five year radio career, Ronn Owens has established himself as the host of the most compelling and thought-provoking morning talk show in Northern California. A half-million fans tune into The Ronn Owens Show every morning to hear his opinions on a range of issues, from popular culture and gossip to current events and politics. He refers to his show as "the ultimate town meeting."

Ronn's guest list reads like a roster of Who's Who among world leaders, top celebrities, personalities, and newsmakers of the day. He has brought his devoted Bay Area audience numerous political figures, such as Al and Tipper Gore, JOHN MCCAIN, Bill Bradley, and Ralph Nader and celebrity personalities, such as tennis player Andre Agassi, theatrical legend Carol Channing, and attorney Johnnie Cochran. Ronn is the newsmen's news man. He has interviewed ABC News anchor Peter Jennings, veteran Washington Correspondent for ABC News Sam Donaldson, NBC's Washington Bureau Chief and Meet the Press host Tim Russert, Hardball host Chris Matthews, and CNN's Wolf Blitzer, to name a few.

Ronn Owens' sense of humor, directness, and intellect has made him a legend in the morning radio talk show industry. Ronn is quoted as saying that he is "just like everybody else—I look at the world around me and comment on it." His fans will forever love Ronn as the man who tickled their funny bones, increased their awareness of national and local issues, and opened their hearts and minds.

Before being elected to Congress, I was a Ronn Owens listener. Over the past seven years, I have gotten to know Ronn as a guest on his show, and I have come to respect him a great deal. I have always found him to be insightful, funny and—even when we are at opposite ends of an issue—fair.

Congratulations, Ronn, on thirty-five years and the Marconi Award. Here's to thirty-five more.

HONORING THE MONTEREY PARK
COMMUNITY RELATIONS COM-
MISSION

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Monterey Park Community Relations Commission for celebrating cultural diversity in the fourteenth annual Harmony Festival.

For thirteen years, the City of Monterey Park has been instrumental in bridging the cultural divide amongst its residents. Their leadership and initiative on multicultural awareness have set a high standard for other cities. The 32nd Congressional District is a culturally diverse district, and it is important that all of us work together to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to achieve the dreams for our families and ourselves.

Throughout my career in public service, I have advocated for policies that promote greater multicultural harmony and recognize the strength that lies in the great diversity of our community, our State, and our Nation. In order to build upon the strength of our diverse communities, we must break down the discriminatory barriers that exist in our country. In this regard, I am fighting in Congress for efforts to eliminate discrimination in all aspects of society, including health care, education, housing, and employment.

I take great pride in the cultural diversity that can be found in Monterey Park and throughout the Los Angeles region. I commend the City of Monterey Park and the Monterey Park Community Relations Commission for their efforts to promote greater multicultural harmony and understanding. These types of events bring the community together to focus on diversity and appreciation of our differences.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO PRIVATE
FIRST CLASS JOSE CASANOVA JR.

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Private First Class Jose Casanova Jr., United States Army 82nd Airborne Division. This young man, from my hometown of El Monte, was a communications specialist who served his country with courage, pride and loyalty. On October 13, 2003, Private Jose Casanova Jr. made the ultimate sacrifice and was killed while serving our country.

Private Jose Casanova Jr., a product of the public school system, earned his high school diploma in June of 1999 from Arroyo High School. During high school, Private Casanova was an active member of the student body participating in football, soccer, track and band. After graduation, his passion for music and helping people led him to return to Arroyo High School as a mentor to younger musicians.

On January 3, 2002, Private Casanova enlisted in the United States Army to serve his country and to achieve his dream of going to college and becoming a firefighter. Private Jose Casanova Jr. received training in Fort Bragg North Carolina. His 82nd Airborne unit was activated and deployed to Iraq on February 14, 2003.

Jose Casanova Jr., a United States citizen and a true patriot, is survived by his mother Teresa Muñoz De Casanova and father Jose Casanova Jr. and eight siblings: Sergio, Gustavo, Olga de Carmen, Veronica, Teresa, Maria De Lourdes, Melissa and Gerardo.

Private Casanova's sacrifice will not be forgotten. We are forever in his debt.

ADOPTION PROMOTION ACT OF 2003

HON. RICK RENZI

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Adoption Caucus, I rise in support of the Adoption Promotion Act of 2003, H.R. 3182, to continue rewarding States for their efforts to promote adoption of children in need of loving families. Since 1997, the number of children adopted from foster care has increased 64 percent. I am happy that States have made substantial progress in finding safe, permanent homes for kids. However, many older children still linger in foster care, and this bill will assist States to find adoptive families for these children. Approximately 126,000 children currently are awaiting adoption, half of whom are age nine or older. The Adoption Promotion Act of 2003 enhances the current incentive program, which rewards States that make gains in the number of children adopted, by creating a new incentive for States that increase adoptions of children age 9 or older. This change reflects a proposal outlined by the Bush Administration.

PALESTINIAN LEADERSHIP MUST
STOP TERRORIST ATTACKS

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deepest sympathy to the families of the three Americans who were killed yesterday, and a fourth who was seriously injured by a massive terrorist explosion, while they were traveling along the main road toward Gaza City. They were employees of a government contractor that provides security services to the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv.

I also want to express my outrage at the continued terrorist attacks that take the lives of children and innocent people in Israel, Gaza and the West Bank. Only twisted minds could ever conceive of such murders as "warfare."

What made this particular terrorist attack unusual was that it involved American citizens, part of a diplomatic and security convoy traveling to Gaza to interview Palestinian candidates for a Fulbright scholarship. Ironically, this scholarship was established to increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and other countries through the exchange of persons, knowledge and skills. What was tragically not unusual, however, was that this was just the latest in a string of hundreds of violent killings spanning several years.

Mr. Speaker, when I visited Israel a few months ago, I met with Palestinian leaders who expressed their opposition to terrorist attacks. However, their actions have not backed up their rhetoric. Yesterday's terrorist bombing further demonstrates the Palestinian authority's continued reluctance—perhaps even aversion—to aggressively dismantle the terrorist infrastructure in areas under its control. Although Palestinian officials condemned this attack, their inability to act against such acts of terrorism has led to continued terrorist attacks against both Americans and Israelis.

In order to have real progress toward peace, Palestinians must have a leader who is willing to stop terrorism—leadership the world has not seen from Yasser Arafat. The Palestinian authority, while denouncing terrorism, has never fought terrorists or terror organizations in a serious or effective way either under Arafat's direct leadership, or in the shadow of his leadership.

It is clear that despite the best efforts of people of good will on both sides, real progress toward peace can never happen as long as the Palestinians have a President who is unwilling to stop terrorists from blowing up innocent Israelis and Americans.

NATIONAL VETERANS CEMETERY
IN MARYLAND

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 16, 2003

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a national cemetery for veterans in Baltimore, Maryland, metropolitan area.

We need little reminder today of the courage and sacrifice of our service men and women. Whether protecting us in past World Wars, in North Korea, Vietnam, or the Persian Gulf, or fighting today in the deserts of Iraq and Afghanistan, our military has rarely questioned their mission to protect the freedoms and liberties we American citizens enjoy every day. In exchange for their service, we promised to take care of our veterans in life and in death. This bill addresses the most basic of those promises for our veterans of yesterday, today and tomorrow.

Maryland has a long-standing tradition of military service and sacrifice dating back to the Revolutionary War—when the Old Line Soldiers were considered General Washington's favorite after saving the Continental Army from destruction as only the Marylanders were left standing. This historical tie was reinforced when the Secretary of the Navy established the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland in 1845—a testament to Maryland's contribution to the future service of our nation.

That tradition continues today with bases in Ft. Meade, Aberdeen, Ft. Detrick, and Andrews Air Force Base, just to name a few. Maryland is home to over 45,000 active, reserve and guard service men and women, as well as their families. And there are over half a million civilian veterans residing in the State of Maryland.

Yet there is no longer federal or national cemetery space for first interments—for veterans who wish to have a casket burial. While there is state cemetery space, I stand here today on behalf of the veterans I represent, on behalf of their families, and on behalf of the veterans throughout my home state of Maryland to ask my colleagues to keep the national promise to all veterans. At the very least, we should offer choices to veterans between national and state cemetery burials. Families should not be forced to travel great distances to visit their loved ones.

There are approximately 27 million veterans in the United States today—10 percent of our national population. And Roll Call on September 29, 2003, said that we are losing 1,500