

one that Dr. Belser provides, contributes greatly to one's personal growth as well as the growth of the community.

Dr. Belser commands a very influential and central role in the construction of the Regional Performing Arts Center, the new theater complex at Juniata College. He has used his expertise not only to teach and enliven his students, but to entertain and educate the surrounding community as well. Dr. Belser's dedication and loyalty to the arts is uncommon in the technologically focused world we live in today, but without such invigorating mentors people would lose the rich culture that influences every action and inspires every thought.

I congratulate Dr. Andrew Belser on this great honor and hope that he continues to spread his wisdom and passion for many years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2003

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was also unavoidably absent from this Chamber on June 3, 2003. I would like the RECORD to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 232. On June 9, 2003, I was absent from this chamber and I would like the RECORD to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 249, 250, and 251. I was also absent from this Chamber on June 11, 16 and 19, 2003, and would like the RECORD to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote 257 and "yea" on rollcall votes 258, 259, 260, 261, 276, 277, 278, and 294.

On June 24, 2003, I was also absent from this Chamber and would like the RECORD to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote 305.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2003

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, due to inclement weather and travel delays from my district, I was unable to vote during the following rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as indicated below.

Rollcall No. 624: "yes"; rollcall No. 625: "yes"; rollcall No. 626: "yes"; rollcall No. 627 "yes."

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SAM MAYNES

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to my friend Sam Maynes. Sam has dedicated his life to advocating for the empowerment of those less fortunate. He is a tremendous attorney, husband, father,

and friend. As Sams's 70th birthday approaches, I would like to call attention to his many contributions to the Colorado community.

Sam is the senior partner of the Durango law firm of Maynes, Bradford, Shipps and Sheftel. Formed in 1961, Sam's firm is general counsel for the Ute Indian Tribe, and special counsel for the Ute Mountain Tribe. Sam is also one of the foremost experts in water law in the United States. He is general counsel for the Southwestern Water Conservation District in Colorado and was instrumental in working to reach a compromise to make the Animas La Plata water project possible. As an attorney, Sam redefines the phrase 'zealous advocacy.' He is renowned for fighting ferociously for what he believes in. Sam is a man of conviction, and principle, when his morals dictate a position for one of his clients; he is willing to go to the ends of the earth to assure that justice prevails.

Sam's ferocious advocacy has earned him many accolades. He is the recipient of the United States Bureau of Reclamation Citizen Award, the Wayne N. Aspinall Water Leader of the Year Award, the Distinguished Achievement Award from the University of Colorado Law School, and the Citizen of the Year Award from the Durango Area Chamber Resort Association. In addition, Sam was named an Honorary Order of the Coif by the University of Colorado School of Law. Sam's many recognitions are a testament to his talent, conviction and integrity. The State of Colorado is truly a better place as the result of Sam's contributions.

The year since Sam's last birthday has been a trying one. Last winter, Sam lost his wonderful wife Jacqueline to multiple sclerosis. Jacqueline was Sam's "angel" and the mother of his four tremendous children. However, even after her death, Sam approaches each day with the knowledge that Jacqueline is there with him as he fights for those who need his help. Despite these tribulations, Sam still displays a playful zest for life each day. Those who visit Sam in his office are often treated to a piece of Sam's famous homemade apricot brandy pound cake while they are amused by Sam's charm, humor and contentment. Sam is truly a magnificent person.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to come before Congress to pay tribute to a man who has dedicated his life to the "under dog." Sam's life is the embodiment of all that makes this country great and I consider it an honor to be his friend. Happy Birthday, Sam.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill and encourage all of my colleagues to support this long overdue museum.

I would like to thank Chairman NEY, Mr. LARSON, Chairman LATOURETTE, Ms. HOLMES-NORTON for their diligence in improving this bill and bringing it before us today. It has been a pleasure working with each of you and your staffs.

I would especially like to thank my colleague from Georgia, Mr. LEWIS, for his tireless efforts over the years to ensure that a National Museum of African American History and Culture will be added soon to our Smithsonian Institution. This project would not be as close as we are today without him, and I am proud to be a part of it.

Mr. LEWIS, thank you for your steadfast commitment and leadership on this issue and for allowing me to work with you on it.

Mr. Speaker, the time has come for a dedicated, national museum to celebrate African American culture, experience, and history.

The history and culture of African Americans is our history and culture. When we learn that history—the good and the bad, the tragic and the inspiring—we learn about ourselves. By understanding our common past we can begin to envision a brighter future.

Bringing this museum into our national memory at the Smithsonian Institution is the right thing to do. And bringing this museum to a prominent and fitting home in our Nation's Capital is also the right thing to do.

There are many issues surrounding this museum which I believe have been fairly addressed by this bill. We have tried to closely follow the model recently adopted for the Native American Museum currently under construction. Issues regarding museum governance and cost sharing, for example, follow this model.

We ensure this is a true partnership with the private sector and the public at-large by capping Federal contributions at 50 percent.

We ensure the historical integrity of the project by fully integrating this museum into the Smithsonian system.

We ensure the project fits into our Nation's Capital by preserving the consultative role of the National Capital Planning Commission.

The one point that has been made many times throughout this process was that a specific site for this museum should be decided now. The Presidential Commission, authorized by the Congress, recommended five sites within the District of Columbia, four of which are included as options in this bill. Each of these sites has significant benefits as well as drawbacks. I strongly believe that is critical to the timely success of this project that a final, achievable and suitable site is agreed upon as soon as possible.

To that end, all the members who have worked so hard on this bill agreed to drop consideration of a site on the Capitol grounds which would have likely resulted in many years of further delay with no promise that the site could ever be made compatible with Capitol security and overall development plans.

This bill and this museum can serve a valuable purpose in furthering our national dialogue on race. I know that it is the intention of everyone associated with this bill to see this project move forward in a spirit reconciliation and not recrimination. I know we all believe this effort is about seeking the truth of our common history without malice. I am confident we all share the view that this museum must be a place to bring all Americans closer together and that it not be allowed to become a taxpayer subsidized headquarters for angry activists or the domain of politically correct historical revisionists. I hope that all of us here today, and those of us who will be here in the future, will remain committed to this museum in the spirit of truth, reconciliation, and respect with which we take this action here today.

Mr. Speaker, expanding our national treasure, the Smithsonian Institution, to include the National Museum of African American History and Culture is a tremendous opportunity to remember our past while looking forward our common future. I encourage all my colleagues to vote in favor of this bill.

**URGING THE PRESIDENT TO
PRESENT THE PRESIDENTIAL
MEDAL OF FREEDOM TO HIS HO-
LINESS, POPE JOHN PAUL II**

SPEECH OF

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor His Holiness Pope John Paul II as Roman Catholics throughout the world celebrate his Silver Jubilee anniversary this year.

The resolution before us, H. Con. Res. 313, recognizes the Pope for his enduring and historic contributions to human dignity and peace and urges President Bush to present him with the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

I can think of no more fitting a tribute to Pope John Paul II, our first ever non-Italian pope, in honoring his 25th year as Bishop of Rome and Supreme Pastor of the Catholic Church. His service began on October 22, 1978.

As the spiritual leader of more than one billion Catholic Christians worldwide, including 66 million in the United States alone, the resolution memorializes the gratitude of many. During his tenure he has visited more than 125 countries and traveled more than 750,000 miles making unprecedented contributions to the freedom of the world community.

The Holy Father's remarkable work has been globally reaching—from his diplomatic leadership toward the peaceful liberation of his Polish homeland and demise of the Soviet empire, to his promotion of human rights in rogue nations, to his efforts to heal historic divisions between the Catholic Church and other worldwide religions.

Mr. Speaker, whether you are Catholic or not, no one can deny the significant impact Pope John Paul II has made on world peace and freedom. His efforts have improved the lives of Christians and non-Christians alike.

I urge my colleagues to support this special resolution for the honored accomplishments of His Holiness Pope John Paul II—a positive inspiration to Catholics and all humankind.

**ESTABLISHING NATIONAL
AVIATION HERITAGE AREA**

SPEECH OF

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 280, legislation to create the National Aviation Heritage Area and urge my colleagues to support its passage. H.R. 280 includes as one of its sections, my bill, H.R. 1594, to provide for a suitability and feasibility study of establishing a St. Croix National Heritage Area in the United States Virgin Islands.

The island of St. Croix has a long, distinguished, and varied history, including being the site where Christopher Columbus first stepped onto what is now American soil. There is significant interest in preserving and enhancing the natural, historical and cultural resources of the island on a cooperative basis and such a study would provide guidance on how we can best achieve those purposes.

National Heritage areas are places where natural, cultural, historical and recreational resources combine to form a nationally distinctive landscape arising from patterns of human activity shaped by geography.

While each island can make a good case for designation, the island of St. Croix with its two historic towns—Christiansted built in 1734 and Frederiksted built in 1752—is richly blessed with all of the attributes that would justify this designation.

The town's historic architecture matured over a 100-year period. The town of Christiansted is one of the finest examples of Danish architectural designs in this hemisphere. Its history can be traced back some 4,000 years to 2500 BC.

In 1493 Columbus arrived at what is now the Salt River National Historic Park and Ecological Preserve, making it the only site under the American flag where his men went ashore, as well as the first recorded hostile encounter between Europeans and Native Americans.

Frederiksted has the distinction of having been the first jurisdiction to have raised its flag in salute of the new republic of the United States of America, and indeed the first designed flag was done by a resident of that island.

Among the many strong ties of great national significance between St. Croix and the United States, perhaps the most significant one is that this island was the boyhood home of Alexander Hamilton, and where he began to develop the skills employed as the first Secretary of the Treasury of this country.

I want to thank Full Committee Chairman POMBO, Ranking Member RAHALL as well as Subcommittee Chairman RADANOVICH for their support is getting H.R. 1594 and H.R. 280 to the floor of the House today.

My colleagues, H.R. 1549 is a good bill, which could serve as a catalyst for reinvigorating the lagging tourism sector on St. Croix. I urge its adoption.

**INCREASING THE WAIVER RE-
QUIREMENT FOR CERTAIN
LOCAL MATCHING REQUIRE-
MENTS TO AMERICAN SAMOA,
GUAM, THE VIRGIN ISLANDS, OR
THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

SPEECH OF

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1189, to increase the waiver requirement for certain local matching requirements for grants to American Samoa, Guam, the Virgin Islands or the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. I want to commend my colleagues ENI FALCOMVAEGA and MAD-ELEINE BORDALLO for introducing the bill, which

would increase the matching waiver requirement for the first time in twenty years.

Last year the Resources Committee unanimously passed a similar bill jointly sponsored by our former colleague from Guam Robert Underwood, ENI FALCOMVAEGA and myself and I'm pleased that we are once again taking this action.

Mr. Speaker, as I indicated, it has been nearly twenty years since this law has been revisited. While territorial economies have improved each government, particularly my own, the government of the U.S. Virgin Islands continues to be challenged with rising unemployment, decreased government revenues, and attracting new capital for diversification. H.R. 1189 will help broaden U.S. territories' access to Federal grants by increasing the amount Federal agencies shall waive to \$500,000.

The bill also seeks to end the inconsistent manner in which 48 U.S.C. section 1469(a) is applied by clarifying that the matching waiver applies to all federal agencies and departments making grants to the U.S. territories, not just the Department of Interior (DOI). The bill also requires DOI to provide a report to Congress on the effect of the updated waiver requirement.

It is my hope also Mr. Speaker, that Federal agencies will apply the waiver not just to grants awarded to the territorial governments, but also to non-profit organizations and other eligible non-governmental entities in the territories. Non-profit organizations in the territories fulfill a significant role in our communities. Groups such as Lutheran Social Services, the St. Croix Community Foundation and the V.I. Resource Center help meet the needs of the homeless, the disadvantaged, and those whose lives are buffeted by tough economic times. Their work is often supported by federal grants. Without such Federal assistance, the non-profit organizations in the territories would struggle to meet their missions and most would not be able to maintain the current level of assistance to our communities.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman POMBO and Ranking Member RAHALL for their willingness to support and shepherd this bill through the legislative process. I also want to particularly thank our former colleague Bob Underwood, who for most of his tenure in the House, made increasing the matching waiver for the territories one of his highest priorities. I urge my colleagues to support passage of this bill.

A TRIBUTE TO A.C. LYLES

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2003

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, recently I had the privilege of visiting with a great American by the name of A.C. Lyles, who has befriended many celebrities over the years. Throughout the decades that he has worked at Paramount Pictures, A.C. Lyles has become loved by studio staff, by stars, and by Presidents. He has made countless contributions to the motion picture industry and become a legendary producer, writer and partners in numerous theatrical features and television shows.

A.C. Lyles was born May 17, 1918 in Jacksonville, Florida. Even as a young boy, he