

IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF NANCY LONSDALE

HON. JAMES C. GREENWOOD

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2003

Mr. GREENWOOD. Mr. Speaker, it is essential that those of us who have the high honor and privilege of serving in this body regularly remind ourselves how dependent we are upon our families, our friends, our supporters, our volunteers and most especially upon our dedicated staffs, to carry out the work of the nation that has been entrusted to our care.

It is difficult, at times, for those who do not work in this body to appreciate the incredible demands that are regularly placed upon our intellect, our time, our health and on numerous occasions, our sheer physical endurance, as we labor to conduct the people's business. Yet the opportunities to do good and to seek the answers to the challenges of our times are so great that, however heavy the burden, we heed the call to duty.

None of this work, however, is done by Members of Congress alone. In fact, without the strong, constant, and faithful service that is rendered to us and to our country by our professional staff the work would be impossible to perform. Every day, we rely upon their knowledge, their wisdom and their moral strength of character to carry a hundred different missions . . . from developing legislation to solving constituent problems to offering counsel and advice on the complex issues that come before the Congress.

Like many of my colleagues, we are most often reminded of the invaluable service our staff members render to us and to our nation when one of our team retires or moves on. This is the case with me today.

For ten years, both in Washington and in my District office at Doylestown, Pennsylvania, Ms. Nancy Lonsdale has been a devoted and capable member of my professional staff. And for years before that, she served as a volunteer in a number of my campaigns for state office. During most of that time, she served as my Executive Assistant and Scheduler at home in the district. In that position she was the steward and guardian of life's most precious commodity . . . time. Through all those years she has served as an honest broker, ably accommodating the desire of the thousands of constituents who wished to see me with all the other myriad demands placed on a Member of Congress.

Perhaps what I am most appreciative of is her dedication throughout those years, when my children were so young, to carve out a time for me to perform the most important duty in my life . . . to be a father to my children. And not just a loving and caring father, but even more importantly, one who had the time to be truly involved in the life of my growing family.

But I am in her debt as well for many other services she rendered. Charged with the task of managing my schedule, she yet found time to take on some of the most difficult casework, including the needs of service men and women on active duty and families in crises.

To everything she does and has done, Nancy Lonsdale brings a level of commitment, a sense of purpose, and a degree of compassion unsurpassed by anyone I have ever known.

All of us who have had the honor to work with her these past years are better people because of our association with her. For in addition to her work ethic, she brings a high and uncompromising moral standard matched with an inquiring mind imbued with an abiding sense of the value and the dignity of every human being.

In her last will and testament, the founder of Nancy's alma mater, Sophia Smith, wrote these words about the woman's college she founded, "It is my wish that the institution be so conducted, that during all coming time it shall do the most good to the greatest number. I would have it a perennial blessing to the country and the world."

I can attest that in the case of Nancy Lonsdale, Smith College alumni that wish has been more than fulfilled. Nancy Lonsdale is a blessing, to her family, to her colleagues, to her country and to the world she labors so tirelessly to improve.

PUTTING THE PEDAL TO THE METAL: ACCELERATING THE ENERGY INDEPENDENCE OF AMERICA ACT

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2003

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce H.R. 770, "Putting the Pedal to the Metal: Accelerating the Energy Independence of America" Act, legislation creating a broad tax credit for the production of alternative fuel vehicles.

Transportation accounts for about two-thirds of the oil consumption in the United States, and we are 97 percent dependent on oil for our transportation needs. If our nation is going to have a strategy for energy security, that strategy must begin with transportation fuels. As we all learned during the California energy crisis, any strategy for energy security has to be based in alternative sources of production, to ensure that we have we are never again held captive by one company or industry.

When enacted, this legislation will offer a tax credit for every dollar invested by companies towards the production of alternative fuel vehicles. The credit will allow companies to take a credit equal to the percent of investment in the production of alternative fuel vehicles, so if a company spends 40% of their time and expense on producing alternative fuel vehicles, they would receive a 40% credit against its tax burden.

Hopefully, this will spur small companies and large companies alike, to move towards the production of alternative fuel vehicles. This landmark legislation will help break the old cycle of automobile manufacturers failing to sufficiently invest in alternative fuel vehicle technology, because it was not profitable enough.

Many companies, large and small, are already in the business of producing alternative fuel vehicles, such as L3 Research, Inc. in San Diego. L3 Research Inc. has a prototype, the L3 "Enigma"—a hybrid-electric sports car. This is the world's first hybrid-electric sports car, faster than a Corvette, and it recharges from a common wall outlet. This is the kind of innovative, next-generation, vehicle production that will benefit from this legislation.

During his State of the Union address, President Bush rolled out an initiative to fund the development of hydrogen fuel cell vehicles. While I support this worthy goal, most experts estimate that fuel cell powered vehicles are a generation away.

Mr. Speaker, we don't need to wait many years to support alternative fuel vehicles—it's time to put the pedal to the metal and accelerate the energy independence of America. Pass H.R. 770.

HONORING MAE EMMA BROOKS OF CENTRE, ALABAMA

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2003

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mae Emma Brooks of Centre, Alabama. On February 22, 2003, she will be honored by St. Mary's United Methodist Church, of Centre, Alabama, which has been her church for the past 74 years.

Mrs. Brooks began attending St. Mary's in 1920 at the age of 5 and became a member of the church in 1929. In addition to raising 6 children and her membership in the Progressive Women's Guild Order of the Eastern Star, Mrs. Brooks has devoted her entire life to her church. She was the Church Secretary for 42 years, the former President of the Women's Society of Christian Service, a choir member for more than 40 years and head of the Board of the Communion Stewards for more than 50 years.

Because of her devotion to St. Mary's United Methodist Church and its congregation, I salute Mae Emma Brooks and join this fine church in thanking Mrs. Brooks for her generous life of service.

CONGRATULATIONS TO PEDRO CAPO AND THE ENTIRE CAPO FAMILY

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2003

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Mr. Pedro Capo for becoming the first Hispanic to serve as president of the National Home Furnishings Association. Mr. Capo's journey is inspiring and it speaks volumes of determination, passion, and family values.

Approximately 36 years ago, Pedro Capo's father, Manuel, and two brothers fled communist Cuba in a 24-foot wooden boat motored only by a converted water pump. Their boat was named "El Dorado," the Spanish word for dolphin. This name was to foreshadow the success to come, both in reaching their destination and continuing a successful family tradition. Upon arriving in the United States Mr. Capo's father and three brothers used the experience gleaned in the family's successful furniture shop in Cuba and shortly after they founded El Dorado Furniture.

The Capo family reflects traditional Cuban values, hard-work, self-reliance, self-confidence and determination.

El Dorado Furniture is a success by any standard. From its humble sales of \$18,251 its first year, it boasts sales of \$125 to \$130 million in 2002. Not many businesses can claim at least a 22 percent increase every year. Apart from El Dorado's business success, it has served as a source of family unity. All the family members continue to work in the business, including seven of the 19 grandchildren.

Passion for the furniture business has been in the Capo family's blood and can be traced back to Cuba. Pedro Capo's father describes him as a child "having an active imagination" and as a child who "loved to share his ideas with the whole family". In the last 10 years, Pedro Capo has been sharing his ideas as a member of National Home Furnishings Association, and in his new position as president, he will continue to share his ideas with National Home Furnishings Association members about getting the most out of their retailing businesses.

I urge all our colleagues to join me in paying tribute to the entire Capo family, and especially to Mr. Pedro Capo, a man that embodies the American dream. He serves as a shining example and reminder that anything is possible in the United States and that dreams can and do come true. A man who stands out as a light for all; whether newly arrived immigrant or multi-generational United States citizen.

WILDLIFE GRANTS PROGRAM

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2003

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, today, Congress is failing to protect America's wildlife by short-changing the State Wildlife Grants program. As many know, I am a strong and consistent supporter of this program, which works to preserve wildlife and save endangered species. Last year, I joined 57 colleagues in recommending \$150 million in funding. Regrettably, the Fiscal Year 2003 omnibus legislation dramatically decreasing the spending level supported by the House last July.

Restoration of previous funding levels for the State Wildlife Grants program, translates into greater protection of endangered species. In particular, 78 species in New Hampshire are threatened, endangered or classified as a "species of concern." These include the Karner Blue butterfly, Piping Plover, and Blanding's turtle. Through the State Wildlife Grant program, the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department is able to monitor viability and health. States that monitor wildlife in a comprehensive manner are able to identify and heal declining species that, unchecked, would require "emergency room" care to avoid their extinction. Clearly, preventive measures save the wildlife and also taxpayer dollars eventually required for heroic measures.

In 2000, when 315 of my House colleagues and I passed the Conservation and Reinvestment Act, we did not foresee the dramatic cuts to the State Wildlife Grants program. Today, we can and should commit more resources for national conservation efforts.

TRIBUTE TO RUTH WILLIAMS BUCE

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2003

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Ruth Williams Buce who died on January 20, 2003, after a brief illness at the age of eighty-two.

Ruth Williams Buce was born in Alexander City, Alabama, and was the first woman in her family to earn a college degree. She was a member of the "greatest generation," the generation that secured democracy and built America in the 20th century.

Ruth made friends everywhere she went in her unending pursuit of continuing education and personal growth. She lived a life of volunteerism and gave generously to many causes. She helped her parents prepare food and deliver it to those in need; she rolled bandages in World War II, and worked as a hospital aide. Most recently she volunteered at the Methodist Country House Health Center. Ruth was an avid participant and a leader in the Friends of the Concord Pike Library, the AAUW Landmarks Group and St. Paul's United Methodist Women.

She is survived by her husband of 60 years, William Austin Buce and her children, James A. Buce and his wife Judith, Robert E. Buce and his wife Barbara, and Janet Buce Cook. She also leaves two grandchildren, Julie and Brian Buce.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ruth Williams Buce for her lifetime of extraordinary service to her community and her country and extending our deepest sympathy to her entire family.

A TRIBUTE TO MISSION SPRINGS WATER DISTRICT FOR 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2003

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like today to offer my congratulations to the board of directors and employees of the Mission Springs Water District for 50 years of high quality service to the residents of Desert Hot Springs, California and the surrounding desert communities.

As you can imagine, Mr. Speaker, water is one of the most important concerns to residents of a desert community. However, many of my colleagues from the watery East may not know that there are millions of gallons of some of the finest water to be found in the underground basins of the deserts of California.

Blessed with one such basin, the early residents of the community (later to become the city) of Desert Hot Springs established, by vote, a water district that was later to become Mission Springs Water District. That original district served one square mile when it was created in February 1953. Today, it covers 135 square miles of a rapidly growing desert area.

Since its inception, the district has committed itself to provide, protect and preserve

its high-quality drinking water. The district has gained widespread respect for its water conservation and attention to top quality materials in its distribution system.

Mr. Speaker, I know that it is common for members of Congress to speak proudly of the quality of their local products. But in this case, the product served by Mission Springs Water District has certified by experts as some of the best in the nation. The district has received one gold and two silver medals in the largest international water tasting competition held: the Berkeley Springs, West Virginia, International Water Tasting and Competition.

In 1998, the district sponsored state legislation to ensure protection of its award winning groundwater. The legislation amended Section 13281 of the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Act (the California Water Code), granting special protection to the Mission Creek and Desert Hot Springs Aquifers—the sources of the cities drinking water and world-renowned mineral water. The district has continued to support other legislation that protects water resources throughout California.

The district has also been a good corporate citizen. In 1999, the district created the Mission Springs Foundation, a 501(c)(3) dedicated to educating the community about water and human impact on water quality. It was instrumental in the formation of the Desert Hot Springs Groundwater Guardian Team in 1995. The Groundwater Guardian is committed to working in the community with the mission of "teaching the community to care for and about groundwater." In 2000, under the leadership of district and the Groundwater Guardian Team, the newly constructed Desert Hot Springs High School became the first Groundwater Guardian Campus in the Nation.

In 1995, the district sponsored the First Big Blood Drive on behalf of the Desert Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce and the Coachella Valley Blood Bank. The drive set records for net pints donated in a single day drive in subsequent years.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that in its 50 years of existence, the Mission Springs Water District has not only provided the highest quality water in the nation to its customers, but has also served as an inspiration source of community pride for those who live in its service boundaries. Please join me in congratulating the board and employees, and wishing them well for the future.

RECOGNIZING VIRGINIA RUE, AS- SISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF THE NAPA VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT AT THE TIME OF HER RETIREMENT

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 13, 2003

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Virginia Rue, who is retiring after working for 27 years in the field of education. During the past nine years, Mrs. Rue has served as the Assistant Superintendent of the Napa Valley Unified School District.

Mrs. Rue has been dedicated to education throughout her life. Part of a new generation of women who refused to be denied a university education, she enrolled at Old Dominion