

strengthen infrastructure of the one-stop delivery system, eliminate duplication, improve accountability, enhance the role of employers, and increase states' and local areas' flexibility.

This reauthorization provides an opportunity to build on and improve the current WIA system so that it can respond quickly and effectively to the changing needs of both workers and employers and further address the needs of special populations. It is designed to promote productive workforce development programs connected to the private sector, post-secondary education and training, and economic development systems in order to enhance the career opportunities and skills of the 21st century workforce. Our goal is to improve the locally driven system to ensure we provide the tools to meet local workforce development needs.

Title II of this Act is the Adult Basic Skills Act, to reauthorize state programs for adult education. The adult education program currently serves 2.7 million adults, almost half who are immigrants whose first language is not English. The program also serves those who are working to get a GED or its recognized equivalent, or are preparing for higher education. Adult basic education programs across the country are offered through schools, community centers, libraries, public housing, community colleges, and volunteer organizations, both public and private, profit and non-profit.

This bill makes changes to current law, and places more of a focus on the delivery of the basic skills of reading, writing, speaking, and math. Additionally, we have sought to ensure that instructional practices are based on scientific research. Provisions have been included to increase accountability for States and local providers to have measurable results in improving basic skills, GED graduates, and those entering higher education. It is important that there be increased coordination with the business community, and Labor Department programs.

The bill also makes improvements to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which provides services to help persons with physical and mental disabilities become employable and achieve full integration into society. The Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) title of this bill enhances and improves transition services, which promote the movement of a student served under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) from school to post-school activities. This legislation also requires States to include in their State plans an assessment of the transition services provided through the VR system and of how those services are coordinated with such services under IDEA. Also included in the State plan are strategies the State will use to address the needs identified in the assessment of transition services described above.

I look forward to working with the members of the Committee, other member of Congress, the Administration, and all stakeholders as we work to a craft legislation that will build upon and improve the systems we created in 1998 and continue to empower individuals in enhancing their career opportunities and skills in our 21st century workforce. I urge my colleagues to join me and the other original co-sponsors in support of the Workforce Reinvestment and Adult Education Act of 2003.

## HONORING THE LIFE OF SAM KARAS

### HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 13, 2003*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Sam Karas. He passed away on February 26, in Monterey, California. He was an actor, an activist, a salesman, a storyteller, a singer, a dancer, a father, a husband and most notably, a friend. He is survived by his wife, Edie, his three daughters Penelope Lockhart, Judith Karas, and Rachel Holz, and four grandchildren.

Sam was born and raised in Chicago, Illinois, by a poor family of Greek immigrants. Growing up he loved three things: "The Shadow" pulp novels, apple pie and basketball. Upon graduating from high school, he moved to Monterey to serve as a 2nd lieutenant in the United States Army during World War II. Despite lacking a college education, Sam was able to quickly rise to the rank of 1st lieutenant, and his enrollment in the armed services was the beginning of what would be a lifelong dedication to public service.

Among others, Sam served on the board of trustees of the Monterey Peninsula Unified School District and was one of the original organizers and board members of the Human Rights Commission. Sam also served with the California Coastal Commission, the Natividad Medical Center Foundation, the Monterey Jazz and Pop Festivals, the Wharf Theater, the Monterey Film Commission, the California Film Commission, and the Monterey Peninsula College board of trustees. In addition, the ACLU, the NAACP, Monterey County, the Sierra Club, and the Carmel Meat Company, which he founded, have honored him.

Sam started this small meat company shortly after marrying his wife Edie in Monterey in 1944, and he sometimes cooked large pots of stew for the homeless along the railroad tracks. Owning this company gave him many other opportunities to reach out to the homeless, a cause that remained close to him over the next half a century and spurred him to become entrenched in the Monterey community.

It was frequently said that Sam represented the wrong communities of Monterey County, as he was mostly concerned with issues such as poverty and health care—issues pertinent to the Salinas Valley, not the Monterey Peninsula. Sometimes the trivial complaints of his constituents bothered him, but that was Sam's character: he wanted to help the people that truly needed helping. A smooth-talking, glad-handing politician he was not. Sam often came at his opponent with disheveled hair, fraying suits and sweaters, and a penchant to comment bluntly, but he never shied away from confrontation. He had an innate sense of right and wrong, and he pursued justice doggedly. He wanted the best for everybody.

The Central Coast of California has mountains and beaches, but on behalf of this House, I wish to celebrate the life of Sam Karas: a man whose spirit made Monterey County a scenic paradise and a more just society.

## BRONZE STAR MEDAL TO MR. OTHO STONE

### HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 13, 2003*

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, on March 22, 2002 I had the distinct pleasure of presenting the Bronze Star Medal to one of my veteran constituents. Today, it is with deep sadness I would like to inform you and my colleagues that Mr. Otho Stone passed away last Friday. Mr. Stone was a WW II veteran who loved his country and served with honor and dignity. He received the honor of the Bronze Star while seeing action against our enemies during WW II.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Stone asked for no special recognition for serving his country but he did ask that our country keep the promises made to all veterans who have served this great nation.

For their service and sacrifices our nation's soldiers and veterans deserve our eternal gratitude.

I know that Mr. Stone would be proud when I say that the men and women who have served our country so honorably know best that freedom is never free, that it is only won and defended with great sacrifices.

And we should honor all our veterans by keeping our promises to them.

## TRIBUTE TO MR. WENDELL TAYLOR BUTLER

### HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 13, 2003*

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize my constituent, Mr. Wendell Taylor Butler and the contribution he made to our country during World War II as a contributor to the Manhattan District Project.

On January 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, approved a top-secret effort to produce an atomic weapon. An unprecedented alliance of industry, academia and government was formed, and in just twenty-seven months, the atomic bomb was produced. Over 140,000 men and women, both civilian and military, worked together in secret communities throughout the United States. Relatives could not even be trusted with the knowledge of their whereabouts or the type of work they were doing. These individuals represent the ingenuity, determination, and patriotic commitment that led our Nation to victory in World War II.

Mr. Butler was employed at Linde Air Products in Tonawanda, New York. This particular facility was used by the government for laboratory and pilot plant studies for uranium separation. The work accomplished at his location was vital for the successful completion of the project.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Mr. Wendell Taylor Butler and the other men and women who remained at home to design, develop, and implement the discoveries of the Manhattan Project. Their dedication and devotion to our national security allowed them to carry out one of the most epic engineering

and industrial ventures in our Nation's illustrious history.

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF CUB SCOUT PACK 596 FROM ST. ALPHONSUS PARISH

**HON. PAUL RYAN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 13, 2003*

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in recognition of the 50th anniversary of Cub Scout Pack 596 from St. Alphonsus Parish in Greendale, Wisconsin. For the past five decades, the leaders, and members of Cub Scout Pack 596 have made invaluable contributions to their community, to Wisconsin, and to our country.

Since 1930, the Cub Scout have helped young boys learn new skills and civic responsibility. Character development, good citizenship, and personal achievement are among the ten purposes of cub scouting. Other goals include spiritual growth, family understanding, respectful relationships, sportsmanship and fitness, friendly service, and fun and adventure. Cub scouts earn merit badges in recognition for physical fitness and talent-building activities. As a former cub scout, I believe that the values I was taught as a member—respect for nature, for other people, and for ourselves—have helped to shape who I am today.

Pack 596 makes a difference in their community every year through programs such as Scouting for Food. In this program, scouts leave empty bags at homes in their neighborhood for the families to fill. The scouts then return the following weekend to take the food-filled bags to the local food pantry. Pack 596 also participates in a toy drive for needy children every Christmas. These boys have consistently worked to make the world a better place and steadfastly honored their motto to do their best.

Mr. Speaker, Cub Scout Pack 596 has served as a model for all cub scout packs for 50 years. They have set a high standard for cub scouts everywhere through their commitment to God and country and their dedication to helping develop the future leaders of our Nation.

COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM

**HON. RON KIND**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 13, 2003*

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, one hundred years ago, President Theodore Roosevelt displayed historic vision and took a bold step forward in his quest to protect our Nation's natural wonders. He decided that the plight of one group of birds on a scant five acres in Florida was important enough to warrant the protection of the Federal government. Roosevelt made this decision on March 14, 1903, continuing his commitment to protect American public lands. In creating a National Wildlife Refuge, however, Roosevelt brought the American public

on a great ideological departure from the principles underlying our National Park System: While those lands are set aside for the enjoyment and appreciation of people, wildlife refuges are for the sole benefit of wildlife. This ideological leap was truly historic, and I commend President Roosevelt and celebrate his enduring legacy.

Since the first refuge was established in our State in 1912, the Wisconsin refuge system has become an integral part of life for our citizens. Our five wildlife refuges and two wetlands management districts attract nearly two million visitors each year. They provide critical habitat for our State's world-renowned wildlife resources, as well as opportunities for recreation and groundbreaking research.

Horicon Marsh, covering 32,000 acres, is the largest fresh water cattail marsh in the United States and is designated as a "wetland of national importance." Tremplealeau, The Upper Mississippi River, and Horicon National Wildlife Refuges are designated as "globally important bird areas." And Necedah National Wildlife Refuge serves as the summer home for research experiments with the migration of highly endangered whooping cranes.

I wonder whether the President knew what he was setting in motion when he set aside those five seemingly inconsequential acres. Could he possibly have dreamed that such humble beginnings would flourish into the grand national wildlife refuge system that we boast today? That system now consists of more than 575 individual units and encompasses over 95 million acres. Refuges can be found in every State in the Union, protecting more than 250 threatened or endangered plants and animals, including such beloved and symbolic species as the manatee, bald eagle, and California jewelflower. These figures far exceed any expectations that President Roosevelt may have had. Our refuge system is truly a triumph of American vision and commitment to responsible stewardship of our unparalleled natural heritage.

I am proud to support the National Fish and Wildlife Service in its vital mission and grateful to be able to pass this legacy on to future generations of Americans.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO: MR. BRIAN BRADY

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 13, 2003*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise today in order to recognize Brian Brady of Grand Junction, Colorado. Brian is a gifted young man whose dedication and entrepreneurship are a credit to his community. Today, I would like to pay tribute to his efforts before this body of Congress and this nation.

As an active member of the Grand Junction community, Brian serves on a variety of local boards and works with many organizations including three of the largest and most active organizations in Mesa County: the Rotary, United Way and the Mesa County Crime Stoppers. Brian's company, Brady MicroTech, creates and maintains websites and is currently the Webmaster of the Gene Taylor's Sporting Goods website, in charge of everything from

the creation of their online catalogue, to taking the photos of the store and maintaining customer relations. Brian has a lot on his plate, especially for a young man who is currently a senior at Central High School in Grand Junction.

A few years ago, Brian and few other young men, Ryan and Rob Cook, and Daniel Davis, approached a local radio station about a teen issues program. The radio station gave the boys an opportunity to broadcast their show, which became an amazing success. Currently, the show airs every Tuesday night from nine until ten o'clock and gives local teens a platform to discuss everything from local issues to the concerns on the mind of today's teenagers.

Brian is a true asset to the people of the Grand Valley, not only for his work with teens, but also for his contribution to local organizations and businesses. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I recognize this capable and gifted young man before this body of Congress and this nation. His dedication to community service is a credit to Mesa County and the entire State of Colorado.

COMMENDING THE 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY

**HON. JOHN S. TANNER**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 13, 2003*

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize the honorable service of the men and women of the 101st Airborne Division of the United States Army, who are again answering this nation's call to duty. They have already been deployed to the Persian Gulf in preparation for whatever conflict may lie ahead.

While international debate continues over the appropriate course of action, Mr. Speaker, it is easy for us to forget about the men and women who are already on the front line, preparing for the unknown, ready to accept the orders that are handed down.

There are almost 20,000 men and women stationed at Fort Campbell, which sits on the border between Tennessee and Kentucky. Fort Campbell is home to the 101st Airborne Division "Screaming Eagles," under the command of Maj. Gen. David Petraeus. The 101st Airborne Division has a long history of outstanding military service, playing key roles in World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam and Desert Storm.

From an Apache fighter-helicopter, the "Screaming Eagles" fired the very first shots in the Gulf War, taking out Iraqi communications and paving the way for the ground attack. In the ground war, the 101st made the longest and largest air assault in world history into enemy territory. About 4,500 "Rakkasans" from the division's 3rd Brigade also spent six months in Afghanistan, fighting in Operation Anaconda, one of the toughest fronts in this nation's war on terrorism.

Now, the men and women of the 101st are again answering the call to duty. The "Screaming Eagles" have left behind their families and their homes to set up camp in the desert. These brave soldiers know that their country may need them, and they are ready to serve.