

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEW
BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, January 8, 2003

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer a very special tribute to one of this city's most distinguished churches, New Bethel Baptist Church; and to its pastor, a leading citizen, former House colleague, and my predecessor as District of Columbia Delegate, Reverend Walter Fauntroy. The church is celebrating the 100th anniversary of New Bethel.

New Bethel Baptist Church is revered in this city for its leadership on many levels. The church is not only a spiritual center. This historic church, located centrally in the historic Shaw district, also is a leader of social innovation and programs that serve its community in diverse and essential ways.

New Bethel's wide ranging service to its community and our city is not surprising. The church's spiritual leader, Reverend Walter Fauntroy, is not only a talented and dedicated minister of the gospel. He has long been a major figure in the civil rights movement even before being elected to Congress. Reverend Fauntroy served for 19 years as a distinguished Member of the House and has been a leader of many activities for social and economic justice here and in the nation since resigning his House seat. Pastor Fauntroy's life and work have added to the unique place New Bethel occupies in the life of his church community and of the District of Columbia.

New Bethel is among the oldest and most distinguished churches in the city. In its hundredth year, it is almost half as old as the city itself. The group that formed the church met first in the home of Brother Benjamin Graves under the guidance of Dr. W. Bishop Johnson, Pastor of the Second Baptist Church. The membership grew and purchased a building on 15th Street, NW. Under the leadership of the Revs. Alfred A. Agerton, Samuel Washington and Richard L. Holmes, the congregation experienced steady growth.

In 1903, the Rev. William D. Jarvis accepted the call to the pastorate, and the church embarked on a 37-year journey of spiritual growth and prosperity. In February 1915, the first worship service was held in the building at 9th and S Streets, NW., which had been purchased from the Grace M.E. Church. Before Dr. Jarvis' retirement on October 1, 1940, the church had grown to 600 worshipers and had become a welcome fixture in the community.

In May 1941, the Rev. C. David Foster, of Philadelphia, PA, was unanimously called to the pastorate. Under this leadership, the church grew spiritually, numerically and financially, and the building underwent extensive renovation.

On January 19, 1959, the Rev. Walter E. Fauntroy, a son of the church who had served as supply pastor, received a unanimous call from the members to serve as pastor. For forty-three years, he has responded to the spiritually needs of the congregation and the rapidly-changing dynamics of the community. Existing organizations have been revitalized and new ones have been created. The position of full-time Assistant Pastor was established, and a ministerial staff was implemented. A tithing program was launched and,

in 1973, New Bethel constructed the C. David Foster House, an eight-story building with 75 units for low and moderate-income families of the Shaw area and other displaced persons.

In 1977, the old structure at 9th and S Streets was razed, and a striking new building was constructed on the site and dedicated and entered in 1982. Today, guided by the pastor's five-year plan, the church continues its mission of service to church members and to the Shaw community.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to offer this tribute to my predecessor and to his distinguished congregation. I ask that this body join me in saluting our former colleague, the pastor, and the members of the New Bethel Baptist Church on the occasion of their 100th Anniversary.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO: PAGOSA
FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**OF COLORADO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, January 8, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize the Pagosa Fire Protection District of Archuleta County, Colorado for their service and dedication during one of Colorado's most formidable fire seasons. Last summer, the Fire Protection District played an integral role in containing the Missionary Ridge forest fire that burned over 70,000 acres in Southwestern Colorado. Today, I would like to pay tribute to their heroic efforts before this body of Congress and this nation.

When the Missionary Ridge fire first erupted last June, the citizens of Durango, Bayfield and the surrounding communities called upon the Pagosa Fire Protection District to protect their loved ones, homes, and communities from what would become the worst fire in area history. The fire began in a ditch beside Missionary Ridge Road just 15 miles northeast of Durango and grew to consume more than 70,000 acres, 56 residences, and 27 out-buildings.

Although the Missionary Ridge fire was a devastating reminder of how destructive forest fires can be, it also served to remind us of the men and women who risk their lives to protect their fellow citizens on a daily basis. The Pagosa Fire Protection District has served the citizens of Archuleta County since 1948 and oversees a 161 square mile region. The district relies upon its Fire Chief Warren Grams, Manager Diane Bowers, Assistant Chief of Maintenance Manuel Trujillo, and volunteer firefighters to remain on call, prepared to fight fires or provide medical assistance on a moment's notice.

Mr. Speaker, it is with sincere admiration that I recognize the Pagosa Fire Protection District of Archuleta County before this body of Congress and this nation. I want to commend the Chief and all of the Fire District's fire fighters for their determination, courage, and resolve during last summer's efforts on Missionary Ridge. Without the help of the Pagosa Fire Protection District and others, the added devastation to our community, environment, and quality of life would have been unimaginable. Their tireless commitment throughout the fire season has served as an inspiration to

us all and it is an honor to represent such an outstanding group of Americans in this Congress.

TRIBUTE TO RYAN KRABILL

HON. GREG WALDENOF OREGON
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, January 8, 2003

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a member of my Washington, D.C. staff who is leaving my office to pursue full-time employment. During his time with us, Ryan Krabill has tirelessly served the people of the Second District of Oregon as our intern. His positive outlook on life and strong work ethic will be greatly missed.

Mr. Speaker, whenever something needed to be done, Ryan readily stepped in and offered to help. From simple tasks like answering phones to attending briefings and drafting letters, Ryan proved himself to be an extremely reliable and efficient worker. My staff came to depend on him heavily, and he never let them down. This is all the more remarkable given that in addition to interning full time at my office, he also held a full time job at Starbucks in the evening!

Ryan originally hails from Albany, Oregon. He attended Westmont College in Santa Barbara, California, where he earned bachelors' degrees in Business and Biology. After college Ryan spent two years in sales, where he honed the professional demeanor and devotion to customer service that he so often demonstrated on the phone and when greeting constituents in my office. Ryan had always been interested in politics, and decided to leave sunny California for Washington, D.C. Luckily, my office was able to take him on as an intern while he explored his options for a full time Capitol Hill career. With the skills he has demonstrated in his service to the people of Oregon, I'm sure he will be an asset to any office.

Mr. Speaker, my office has been lucky to have an intern like Ryan. His strong work ethic and upbeat attitude will no doubt serve him well in any position that he chooses to pursue and will truly be missed around the office. Best of luck in the future Ryan, and keep up the good work.

SIERRA NATIONAL FOREST LAND
EXCHANGE ACT OF 2003**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, January 8, 2003

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, to facilitate a Forest Service land exchange that will eliminate a private in-holding in the Sierra National Forest in the State of California and provide for the permanent enjoyment by the Boy Scouts of America of a parcel of National Forest System land currently used under a special use permit, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Mr. RADANOVICH (for himself, Mr. NUNES and Mr. DOOLEY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

A BILL

To facilitate a Forest Service land exchange that will eliminate a private in-holding in the Sierra National Forest in the State of California and provide for the permanent enjoyment by the Boy Scouts of America of a parcel of National Forest System land currently used under a special use permit, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the 'Sierra National Forest Land Exchange Act of 2003'.

SEC. 2. LAND EXCHANGE, SIERRA NATIONAL FOREST, CALIFORNIA.

(a) RECEIPT OF PRIVATE LANDS—In exchange for the land described in subsection (b), the owners of a parcel of private land consisting of the north ½ of the northwest ¼ of section 29, township 8 south, range 26 east, Mount Diablo base and meridian, California, shall convey all of their right, title, and interest in and to the parcel to the Secretary of Agriculture.

(b) CONVEYANCE OF FOREST SERVICE PROPERTY—Upon receipt of the land conveyed under subsection (a), the Secretary of Agriculture shall convey to the persons making such conveyance all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to a parcel of National Forest System land consisting of the east ½ of the southwest ¼ and the west ½ of the southeast ¼ of section 30, township 9 south, range 25 east, Mount Diablo meridian, California.

(c) RECONVEYANCE—The Conveyance under subsection (b) shall be subject to the condition that the recipients of the land agree to convey the land, within a time period agreed to by the Secretary of Agriculture and the recipient, to the Sequoia Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

(d) EQUAL VALUE OF PARCELS—The value of the two parcels of real property to be exchanged under this section are deemed to be equal.

A BILL TO CLARIFY THE TREATMENT OF INCENTIVE STOCK OPTIONS AND EMPLOYEE STOCK PURCHASE PLANS

HON. AMO HOUGHTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2003

Mr. HOUGHTON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join a number of my colleagues in introducing our bill to solve a problem that has been facing a number of companies during the past few years who grant stock options to their employees. Due to the passage of time, this problem is becoming more urgent for a number of reasons mentioned below. I introduced an identical bill in the 107th Congress.

Many companies use stock options as an incentive to attract and motivate employees. Companies give their workers the right to purchase company stock, at a small discount from the listed price, through Employee Stock Purchase Plans and Incentive Stock Options. Employee stock ownership motivates workers and can create a positive relationship between management and workers, where both reap rewards for successful company performance.

For nearly 30 years the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) took the position that the income from these stock options was not subject to employment taxes when the option is granted

or exercised. Instead tax is imposed when the actual stock is sold. However, audits and rulings on specific companies a few years ago raised the troubling prospect that the IRS was changing its position to require that employment taxes should be withheld from the paychecks of individuals who exercised stock options under these plans.

Employee Stock Purchase Plans and Incentive Stock Options were created by Congress to provide tools to build strong companies and encourage greater employee ownership of company stock. It was not the intent of Congress to dilute these incentives by requiring employment tax on withholding when the stock is purchased.

Members of Congress raised concerns about this issue, and in early 2001 the IRS put in place a moratorium so that no employment taxes would be assessed on stock options. The IRS later lifted the moratorium for options exercised this year. In response to further opposition, in 2002 the IRS announced an indefinite moratorium. As a result, the Joint Committee on Taxation determined that there would be no revenue loss if the law were clarified to prevent withholding on ESPPs and ISOs. If the moratorium is lifted by the IRS there will be a substantial revenue cost attached to clarifying the law. In 2002, the House passed the previous legislation I introduced. Although the Senate Finance Committee passed the legislation unanimously, the legislation was not considered by the Senate.

The legislation would clarify that the difference between the exercise price and fair market value of a stock is not subject to employment taxes when an ISO or ESPP is exercised. In addition, wage withholding is not required on disqualifying dispositions of ISO stock or on the fifteen percent discount offered to employees by ESPPs.

I urge my colleagues to support this proposed legislation, so that this issue can be resolved as quickly as possible in this Congress.

**INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT OF
H.R. 241, THE VETERANS BENE-
FICIARY FAIRNESS ACT OF 2003**

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2003

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing H.R. 241, the Veterans Beneficiary Fairness Act of 2003. This legislation, which is cosponsored by my friend Lane Evans of Illinois, the Ranking Member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, will correct a deficiency in the law that negatively affects some surviving spouses of disabled veterans.

Currently, if a veteran dies while a claim for VA benefits (other than insurance and servicemen's indemnity) is being processed, but before his or her claim becomes final, the surviving spouse is entitled to no more than two years of accrued benefits when the claim is decided in the veteran's favor. H.R. 241 would repeal this two-year limitation so that the veteran's survivor may receive the full amount of the award and not be penalized by VA's failure to resolve a claim in less than two years.

Mr. Speaker, while VA has made great efforts to lower claims processing times, the fact remains that it can sometimes take more than

2 years to correctly determine and adjudicate a claim. When this process takes an inordinate length of time, it is simply not fair to prevent veterans' survivors from receiving disability or pension benefit payments the veteran would have received if VA had been able to process claims in a timely fashion. H.R. 241 would ensure that a veteran's survivor would not suffer because the veteran died while waiting for the claim to be adjudicated.

Mr. Speaker, it is my intention that the Veterans' Affairs Committee consider this bill as soon as possible during the 1st Session of the 108th Congress. It is a matter of fairness and I urge all of my colleagues to join in this effort.

TRIBUTE TO GREG STANFORD

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 8, 2003

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a member of my Washington, DC staff for his tireless efforts on behalf of the good people of Oregon's Second Congressional District. Greg Stanford is leaving my office after three years of dedicated service to pursue other endeavors. Greg has done a great job and will be sorely missed.

Greg was raised near Grass Valley, California, in the community of Chicago Park. Following his graduation from Nevada Union High School, Greg chose to further his education by moving across the California border and attending the University of Nevada at Reno. While pursuing his bachelor's degree in Political Science, he also found the time to participate in Phi Mu Alpha, the international music fraternity and the University Band, honing the impressive drum skills that he was always happy to demonstrate for his coworkers.

After graduating Greg made another move, this time across the country to work in Congressman Jack Metcalf's office as his staff assistant where he wet his political feet while serving the people of Washington's Second District. When Congressman Metcalf decided to retire at the end of the 106th Congress, my office was lucky enough to hire him as our legislative correspondent and deputy systems administrator.

Greg, affectionately known around the office as "Brady," has been an asset to my office during his tenure. He brought a strong interest in politics and a genuine desire to serve the people of Oregon. He hit the ground running, putting in long hours and working hard at any task he was given whether it was drafting constituent letters or following legislation as our "floor czar" to rolling up his sleeves and pulling all-nighters printing mass mailings to keep my constituents informed. Greg was a loyal and tireless worker.

Mr. Speaker, Greg has dutifully served the people of Oregon's Second District. His smiling face, his contagious laugh, and good-natured temper will be missed. However, I'm sure he won't miss his days in the cave! I have every confidence that he will do well in whatever vocation he decides to pursue. Good luck, Brady, and good job.