

vulnerable children, those who are part of the Even Start program.

These children's families qualify for Even Start because they are low socioeconomic families who may also be English learners. Program liaisons work with the families from the children's infancy until they are in school. Even Start funds approximately 1,400 programs and serves approximately 50,000 families across the Nation.

Without this existing William F. Goodling Even Start Family Literacy Program, these children would arrive for their first day of school without the literacy skills to compete at that starting line. They are unlikely ever to catch up, even if they are able to be served in the Head Start program before actually entering school, unless the adults who work with them in these critical early years learn literacy teaching skills and learn to value the role of education.

Over 86 percent of parents in the Even Start program have not completed high school upon entering the program (compared with about 27 percent of Head Start parents). Eighty percent of participants have a family income below \$15,000 and over 40 percent have income below \$6,000. This is clearly a high-needs population.

What the program offers is both literacy-training classes for the children and family literacy programs for the parents. Children participating in Even Start are provided with age-appropriate educational services to ensure that they will achieve at a level similar to that of their age peers who come from socio-economically enriched backgrounds.

Liaison advisors work with each family to promote strong literacy support experiences, to help parents learn ways they can develop their own English literacy skills, and to provide support groups for parents to share the challenges and skills of parenting.

In developing their own literacy, adults in these family literacy programs tend to participate longer than those in regular adult education programs because they can link their literacy growth to that of their children. They not only see benefits in improved literacy skills but also reduced dependency on federal/state assistance programs and enhanced employment opportunities. Most importantly, they are empowered to be successful as their child's first and most important teacher.

This bill will set aside funding to establish nationwide programs to assist in the training of program directors and facilitators in recently developed, research-based literacy training skills.

President Bush has declared his support for helping parents, day-care centers, and preschools teach more learning skills to children before they get to kindergarten. Even Start provides just such a program for parents to develop the literacy skills that enable them to perform this task. Because of new legislation, particularly the new qualifications for personnel, performance objectives, and "scientifically-based reading research" requirements for instructional programs, local Even Start programs also need to benefit from this type of high-quality training.

I have requested an evaluation to provide a longitudinal look at the achievement of children assisted by the program because I believe that evaluation must be embedded in all such programs.

It is overwhelming to bear heart-felt expressions of appreciation for the program and its

leaders when I have visited Even Start programs. Adults marveled at the change in their children's feeling about reading and learning when they were able to make reading together a daily activity. One mother told me how she thought she couldn't help her 5 year old with reading, but, thanks to the program, she realized that reading together enabled them to help each other with the words each didn't know.

All children deserve an even start. This bill will assure that Even Start facilitators will be well-trained to help parents learn the skills that enable their children to be competitive at the starting line.

AUBURN UNIVERSITY SWIM TEAM

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, last week the Auburn University swim team dominated the NCAA Swimming and Diving Championships by winning the men's national title.

The Tigers routed their nearest competitors by 196.5 points and qualified 11 swimmers for the championship finals and four more for the consolation finals. This was the men's team third national title ever.

But the men were diving on the heels of the Auburn women's swim team, who during the previous week, won their first-ever National Championship.

Mr. Speaker, these young men and women symbolize the strength of the human spirit and the joy of achievement. Let us congratulate them for their victories by acclaiming together in the House: "WAR EAGLE!"

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for your consideration of these Americans. As a tribute for the families of these proud young men and women, please enter their names into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

Auburn University Men's Swim Team: Lyle Babcock, Chad Barlow, Seth Barry, George Bovell, Fred Bousquet, Will Brandt, Matt Bricker, Kurt Cady, Patrick Calhoun, Justin Caron, James Galloway, Mark Gangloff, Caesar Garcia, Derek Gibb, Joseph Gonzales, Andy Haidinyak.

Auburn University Women's Swim Team: Jenni Anderson, Maggie Bowen, Sally Brown, Demerae Christianson, Eileen Coparropa, Kirsty Coventry, Lauren Duerk, Magda Dyszkiewicz, Erin Gayle, Margaret Hoelzer, Kelly Jones, Heather Kemp, Jana Kulkanova, Rachel Korth, Alessandra Lawless, Leslie Lunsmann, Cassidy Maxwell, Jeri Moss, Kelsey Patterson, Ashley Rubenstein, Becky Short, Laura Swander, Erin Volcan, Amy Wheatley.

TRIBUTE TO FORMER CONGRESSMAN TENO RONCALIO

HON. BARBARA CUBIN

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise with sadness today to note the passing of one of Wyoming's most prominent and able public serv-

ants—former Congressman Teno Roncalio. Congressman Roncalio died on March 30 at the age of 87. He will be forever remembered for a body of legislative accomplishments that truly benefitted the state he loved so well.

Known to all in Wyoming as simply Teno, the Congressman was born in 1916 in Rock Springs, WY, the eighth of nine children of an immigrant Italian family. He attended the University of Wyoming, graduated in 1939, and then went to Washington to work for Wyoming Senator Joe Mahoney. He enrolled in Catholic University Law School, only to have his studies interrupted by World War II. He served with distinction in the 18th infantry, and saw combat in seven campaigns including Africa, Italy, France and Germany. He earned a Silver Star for gallantry during the D-Day Invasion at Normandy.

After World War II, he returned to his beloved state and earned a law degree at the University of Wyoming. After practicing law and serving a stint as a deputy county attorney, he was elected to Congress first in 1964 and then, after losing a Senate race, won our House seat again in 1970. He served another four terms with distinction, retiring in 1978.

During his time in Congress, Teno worked diligently on critically important issues to Wyoming. He helped boost Wyoming's share of mineral royalties, a driving force in our state's economy to this day. He wrote legislation to create a number of recreational areas in the state, including Flaming Gorge, Big Horn Canyon and Fossil Butte. After he left Congress, he continued to serve Wyoming, acting as Special Master in the adjudication of water rights on the Big-Horn-Big Wind River. His commitment to environmental concerns and preserving the beauty and history of Wyoming constitute a lasting contribution to the state.

Only last year, the Wyoming congressional delegation was successful in securing approval of legislation to name the United States Post Office in Rock Springs in Teno's honor. It was a privilege to have a part in recognizing a man with such a distinguished career of devoted public service to our state.

My thoughts and prayers are with Teno's family. He was a man of great heart and compassion who will truly be missed. Though he is gone, his legacy in Wyoming will live forever.

CHILD ABDUCTION PREVENTION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 27, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1104) to prevent child abductions, and for other purposes:

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise in reluctant support of H.R. 1104, the Child Abduction Prevention Act. I support H.R. 1104 reluctantly because while the resolution improves upon the AMBER Alert system, it is not a clean AMBER Alert Bill.

The provisions of H.R. 1104 that improve the AMBER Alert system are critical steps in making America safer for children. The AMBER Alert provisions of H.R. 1104 direct

the Attorney General to assign a National Amber Alert Coordinator. The Coordinator will establish minimum standards for the issuance of AMBER Alerts, including the extent of dissemination of alerts. The minimum standards will require vital information relating to the special needs of the child, including the child's health care needs, to be provided to the appropriate law enforcement and public health officials. Also, the dissemination of the AMBER Alert will be limited to the geographic area most likely to facilitate the recovery of the abducted child.

H.R. 1104 also requires the Secretary of Transportation to provide grants to states for the development or improvement of AMBER Alert communication or notification systems along America's highways. It requires the Attorney General to provide grants to States for the development or enhancement of programs and activities for support of the AMBER Alert communications plans.

I wholeheartedly support all of the AMBER Alert provisions of H.R. 1104. These provisions improve the AMBER Alert system and help to reduce the likelihood that children who are kidnapped will also be physically abused, sexually abused, or murdered. These provisions also improve the chances that abducted children will be returned to their families.

I have reservations about supporting H.R. 1104 because it is not a clean AMBER Alert bill. I believe that the Amendments to the bill dealing with prison sentence guidelines, pre-trial release, and law enforcement investigation powers should be dealt with in separate legislation.

More importantly, the extraneous provisions will delay the ultimate passage of the AMBER Alert Bill. Every day that goes by without a national AMBER Alert system in place puts the lives of children at risk. According to an October 2002 U.S. Department of Justice Report titled the National Incidence Studies of Missing, Abducted, Runaway, and Thrownaway Children (NISMART Report), 12,222 children were the victims of traditional kidnappings in the year 1999 alone. That amounts to approximately 33 children kidnapped nationwide per day.

While the members of the House debate extraneous amendments, hundreds of children are being kidnapped and murdered. As the Chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus, I strongly believe that the best way to save children's lives is to vote in support of H.R. 1104, even if I do so reluctantly.

That is why, Mr. Chairman, I reluctantly vote in favor of H.R. 1104.

HONORING PAUL BETANCOURT

HON. CALVIN M. DOOLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mr. DOOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Paul Betancourt, who is being honored as the outgoing president of the Fresno County Farm Bureau, FCFB. Paul Betancourt has spent more than a decade serving my district through his activities with the Fresno County Farm Bureau, which represents over 6,000 members, produces more than 300 crops and grosses more than \$3.2 billion annually. Paul Betancourt has set an example

through his dedicated commitment to our community.

Since completing his 2-year role as president of the FCFB, Mr. Betancourt continues to serve on the FCFB Executive Committee and he was recently appointed to serve as the Industry Representative on the San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District's Citizens Advisory Committee. Before serving as FCFB President, Betancourt also served as the FCFB secretary-treasurer and second and first vice presidents.

In addition to all of his work with the FCFB, Mr. Betancourt has served in a number of various community activities. Through his Farm Bureau activities, Mr. Betancourt served on the board of directors of the Fresno Chamber of Commerce, and represented FCFB at many industry and community forums and events. Mr. Betancourt currently serves on the Kerman Unified School Board of Trustees, and is involved in the Fresno Area Collaborative Regional Initiative. Additionally, Mr. Betancourt is a noted columnist for a local business publication and he teaches Sunday school at the Kerman Covenant Church.

Mr. Betancourt currently farms more than 750 acres of cotton and almonds in Fresno County, where he has also grown crops such as tomatoes, sugar beets, cantaloupes, barley, and cattle. Paul Betancourt's intimate knowledge of farming issues and his dedicated commitment to farmers and Fresno County residents as a whole should serve as an example of leadership and dedication in the Central Valley of California.

Mr. Betancourt has contributed to the improvement of the community through his work in and out of the Fresno County Farm Bureau. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in congratulating Paul Betancourt on his retirement as president of the Fresno County Farm Bureau.

IN RECOGNITION OF MR. HARRY B. NISSLEY

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Harry B. Nissley, a local hero in my community who has dedicated over 50 years of his life to educating and inspiring our students.

Mr. Nissley worked as a tennis coach for the El Monte Union High School District from 1946 until his retirement in 2001. Over the course of his career, he has received numerous honors, including the San Gabriel Valley Administration Association's Service Award and the California Interscholastic Federation Award. But most enduring is the imprint he has left on the lives of hundreds of students, athletes and peers. Mr. Nissley's enthusiasm, caring and dedication is exemplary of a great educator.

Mr. Nissley went above and beyond the call of duty to make sure that students were given every opportunity to excel. Every spring, he hosted the Keeley Tennis tournament to help pay for student competition entry fees and often used his own money to help those students with financial hardships. Mr. Nissley's enthusiasm was only surpassed by his desire

to enhance each student's life. He strived to instill in his students a strong and positive sense of self worth.

Earlier this year, a former student and professional tennis player, honored Mr. Nissley by organizing an event commemorating his contributions. During the event, numerous former students and athletes praised him with kind words and fond memories.

Mr. Nissley is now 90 years old. At the request of his students, colleagues, friends and family who wanted to recognize his numerous contributions, the community of El Monte recently nominated him for induction into the California Interscholastic Federation Hall of Fame. Not only is the number of years he taught at the El Monte Union School District already a state record, but his commitment and selflessness is immeasurable.

I would also like to join the community of El Monte in showing my appreciation for Mr. Nissley by asking Congress to recognize his vast contributions to our youth, and outstanding dedication to service.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ST. CROIX NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA STUDY ACT

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to direct the Secretary of Interior to conduct a study of the suitability and feasibility of establishing the St. Croix National Heritage Area.

According to the National Park Service, National Heritage Areas are places that are federally designated to preserve an important aspect of America's past and share it with visitors. They are generally started at the grassroots by community members who envision places where the best of the past becomes part of a sustainable future.

National Heritage Areas are not living theme parks seeking to freeze places in time. They seek instead to conserve their special natural spaces and historic places as part of their communities' social and economic futures. The successful melding of past and future is the National Heritage Area challenge.

The unique natural, historic and cultural resources of the island of St. Croix represent distinctive aspects of American heritage that are in my view, worthy of recognition and provide outstanding opportunities for recreational and educational opportunities.

In introducing this bill I hope to utilize our spectacular natural and historic resources to spur economic development on my home island which badly needs it. As Interior Secretary Gail Norton noted during her visit to St. Croix: "We certainly want to protect the wonderful environment here and to match that great environment with a thriving economy. Heritage tourism might be one option for St. Croix".

Mr. Speaker, there are currently 23 existing national heritage areas across 17 states. As the Ranking Democrat on the House National Parks and Public Lands Subcommittee, I can confirm that heritage areas are just one of a growing number of collaborative, community-based conservation strategies that have developed in recent years to identify, preserve, and interpret resources.