

Mr. Speaker, this legislation would facilitate the Secretary's authority to transfer unneeded real property currently in VA's portfolio and under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Secretary. The bill would require fair market value for any such transfers, except when transferred to a provider of homeless veterans services receiving a grant under section 2011 of title 38, United States Code.

This bill would also repeal the defunct Nursing Home Revolving Fund, in section 8116 of title 38, United States Code. It would establish a new fund to be known as the Capital Asset Fund, to help defray VA's cost of transferring real property, including demolition, environmental restoration, maintenance, repair, historic preservation and administrative expenses.

VA controls the fourth-largest inventory of owned, leased, and operated federal real property. It is estimated that more than half of VA's facilities are over 50 years old. Many date from the 19th century and many more were constructed in the late 1940s and early 1950s. A large number of properties are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Given this rich array of heritage assets, H.R. 4768 would also allow the Secretary to enter into partnerships or agreements with public or private entities dedicated to historic preservation and to use resources from the Capital Asset Fund to facilitate the transfer, leasing or adaptive use of these properties. The bill requires a series of reports, beginning with a complete inventory of historic properties, followed up with an annual update of the status of each property for two subsequent reporting cycles.

The bill would require in the Department's annual budget submission inclusion of information on each proposed and completed transfer. The Department also would report to Congress the annual deposits and expenditures from the Fund.

This bill includes a provision to permit the construction of surface parking when incidental to an authorized major medical facility construction project. Also, the bill would provide the Secretary additional flexibility in using funds to develop advanced planning for major construction projects previously authorized by law.

VA major medical facility projects are already exempt under section 8166(a) of title 38, United States Code, from State and local laws relating to building codes, permits, and inspections unless the Secretary consents to participate in such state and local regulation. The bill would exempt VA from State and local land use (zoning) laws.

Mr. Speaker, I trust that my colleagues will agree with me that this is a bill worthy of their support. I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill and help enact it as a high priority to assist the Department of Veterans Affairs with its capital asset needs.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF GLORIA ANZALDÚA

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 7, 2004

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the life and legacy of Gloria Anzaldúa, an

internationally renowned scholar and activist who recently passed away.

A highly talented and versatile writer, Gloria Anzaldúa is recognized for representing the finest in the Chicano/Latino literature. She skillfully expressed her thoughts and feelings in a variety of genres including poetry, essays, children's books, and narratives. She is best known for her 1987 hybrid collection of poetry and prose titled *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza*. This volume was a best seller and was listed among the 100 Best Books of the Century by the Hungry Mind Review and *Utne Reader*. Her other published works include *This Bridge Called My Back* (1981), *Making Face, Making Soul* (1990), *Prietita and the Ghost Woman* (1995), and *This Bridge We Call Home* (2002).

Gloria Anzaldúa was celebrated by some of the most well respected publishing and educational institutions. Her awards include the Before Columbus Foundation American Book Award, Lambda Lesbian Small Book Press Award, National Endowment for the Arts Fiction Award, and the American Studies Association Achievement Award.

As one of the first openly lesbian Chicana authors, Anzaldúa played a major role in redefining contemporary Chicano/a and gay/lesbian identities through her written work. A pioneer in developing an inclusive feminist movement, she won the hearts of countless readers from all walks of life and inspired many to become activists in their communities.

Gloria Anzaldúa passed away on May 15, 2004, at the age of 61. Her mother, Amalia, her sister, Hilda, and two brothers, Urbano and Oscar, survive her. Although she will be greatly missed, our nation will always remember her illustrious professional career. Her powerful vision will be embraced and cherished by future generations of activists, readers, and leaders from all walks of life.

HONORING THE CHICAGO HISTORICAL SOCIETY ON THE FOURTH OF JULY

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 7, 2004

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, today it is my privilege to recognize the contributions of the Chicago Historical Society toward preserving our glorious heritage and the legacy of great Chicagoans, on the occasion of its 45th Annual 4th of July Celebration. America has come a long way since the Founding Fathers signed the Declaration of Independence, and I applaud the CHS for capturing the pivotal moments of this journey in its "Documents of Freedom" and "Free to Vote" exhibitions.

By consistently demonstrating its commitment to historical accuracy and preservation, the Chicago Historical Society has earned its place atop the pillar of Chicago's treasures. Its commitment to this cause makes it the perfect backdrop for a celebration of our nation's history on Independence Day.

We make the Fourth of July as the beginning of a revolution to secure those unalienable rights from tyranny, but the struggle began long before that date and would continue to be defended by Americans long afterward. Guided by courage, faith, respect

for human dignity, and love of freedom, our forefathers fought valiantly to protect our ideals and liberties. In the two and a quarter centuries that have since passed, America has seen the highest peaks and preserved through some difficult times while the values that gave birth to our country have endured.

These values that we hold so dear are preserved for eternity here at the Chicago Historical Society. And as the Historical Society has earned its place as an integral element of Chicago's museum community, the 4th of July celebration has become ingrained in Lincoln Park's culture, and holds a permanent place on the community calendar. Men and women who grew up with their parents here on the 4th of July, now bring their children along with them. And so, these values and traditions will continue to be passed on to future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the leadership of Lonnie Bunch, Hill Hammock, and the other leaders of the Chicago Historical Society on another fantastic 4th of July celebration. I hope that the Historical Society will continue to enrich our lives and educate Chicagoans for many, many more years.

A TRIBUTE TO THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY ON ITS SESQUICENTENNIAL

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 7, 2004

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today in support of H. Res. 703, a resolution offered by my colleague Representative JOHN PETERSON, congratulating my alma mater, The Pennsylvania State University, on 150 years of service and commending Pennsylvania's designation of the university as Pennsylvania's sole land-grant institution.

As a native Pennsylvanian, I was proud to attend Penn State and earn my undergraduate there in 1961. I also met someone there who would become the most important person in my life—a fellow Penn State student named Carolyn Stover who accepted my proposal to be my wife.

We have many fond memories of our time together at Penn State, strolling together past Old Main, and our dates to the Creamery, enjoying the best ice cream in the world—bar none.

Mr. Speaker, you may not know the tradition of the Creamery. It all started in 1892, when Penn State became the first American institution of higher education to establish collegiate-level instruction in ice cream manufacture, a program that has helped make the university an internationally recognized center for research in frozen confections.

Penn State without question has had an outstanding 150 years as one of the finest land grant institutions in the Nation. Its list of achievements is long and impressive. It was the first institution of higher education in the country to offer undergraduate degrees in industrial engineering, fuel science, and turf grass science. Its strong and varied undergraduate program draws students from across the country and the world.

Penn State's graduate programs also are impressive. Its supply chain/logistics, industrial/manufacturing engineering, materials engineering, nuclear engineering, agricultural engineering, higher education administration, administration/supervision, vocational/technical education, counseling services, ceramics, and rehabilitation counseling graduate programs rank among the Nation's top ten, according to U.S. News and World Report. Penn State's medical, law, and business graduate programs are also stellar.

It is important to note that one in every eight Pennsylvanians with a college degree, one in every 720 Americans, one in every 50 engineers, and one in every four meteorologists are alumni of Penn State.

Penn State is an institution that not only trains the mind, but the body as well. The Nittany Lions are known throughout the intercollegiate sports world for its outstanding teams. Penn State's football team is synonymous with gridiron excellence. Coach Joe Paterno is a football legend, and became the all-time leader in wins in college football in 2001. Penn State also fields quality teams in cross-country, women's volleyball, and gymnastics, just to name a few. The Penn State athletic tradition is robust, and the university has garnered an impressive 56 national team championships in its history.

Penn State's scholar/athletes have impressive academic credentials: the university graduated 80 percent of its scholar/athletes from the entering class of 1996–1997 within six years, compared to a national average of 62 percent for scholar/athletes at all Division I NCAA institutions. Penn State maintains an emphasis on education and athletics that is to be envied.

Penn State's history is full of accomplishments and its future is full of promise. I will insert for the record a list of 50 ways Penn State has shaped the world. This is just a fraction of the ways the students, faculty, staff and all those associated with Penn State have helped to make our Nation and the world a better place.

The education I received at Penn State and the relationships I developed—the most important of which was meeting my future wife—helped shape my life and the public service path I pursued. Carolyn and I, both proud Penn State alumni, congratulate the university on its sesquicentennial, and look forward to celebrating Penn State's future accomplishments.

50 WAYS PENN STATE HAS SHAPED THE WORLD

Since its founding in 1855, Penn State and its people have been leaving their mark on the world. From the viewing of the first atom, to the leading roles played by alumni in Desert Storm, Penn Staters have had a profound impact on the world and are leaving a legacy of contribution.

1. American Literature—Fred Lewis Pattee, who joined the faculty in 1894, became the first in the Nation to hold the title of Professor of American Literature, a field then considered a minor subdiscipline of English literature. He helped make Penn State one of the earliest centers for American literature studies.

2. Animal Nutrition—In the early 1900s Professor Henry Armsby used a respiration calorimeter to try to determine the net energy value of food—that is, the portion of food energy that an animal used to produce milk or meat. His experiments attracted worldwide interest and helped to develop livestock feeds of higher nutritive value.

3. Architectural Engineering—Penn State offers America's oldest continuously accredited (since 1936) curriculum in this field. It introduced the curriculum in 1910 to provide "liberal training in both the aesthetic and construction sides of architecture."

4. Art Education—Penn State became an international center for art education when Austrian-born Viktor Lowenfeld joined the faculty in 1946. Lowenfeld was the most influential art educator of the 20th century and wrote the field's dominant book, *Creative and Mental Growth*, based on his pioneering work in psychology and the art of the visually impaired.

5. Artificial Insemination—Over a 30-year period beginning in 1946, dairy scientist John Almquist perfected commercially viable artificial insemination techniques for dairy cattle. His research has led to more than \$600 million worth of increased food production and cost savings worldwide.

6. Artificial Organs—A heart-assist pump developed by medical and engineering faculty in 1976 to prolong the lives of cardiovascular patients was the first surgically implantable, seam-free, pulsatile blood pump to receive widespread clinical use. It led to the Penn State Heart, the only artificial heart approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

7. Astronauts—Four Penn Staters have flown in space: alumni Paul Weitz, Robert Cenker and Guion S. Bluford Jr. (the first African-American astronaut, who flew on the space shuttle Challenger in 1983), and Assistant Professor of Kinesiology James Pawelczyk.

8. Astronomy—Penn State, with the University of Texas, operates the Hobby-Eberly spectroscopic survey telescope, the largest instrument of its kind in the world, which measures individual wavelengths of light to reveal information about stars, galaxies, and other deep-space phenomena.

9. Atom First "Seen"—In 1955, physics Professor Erwin Mueller became the first person to "see" an atom, using a field ion electron microscope of his own invention. The device was a landmark advance in scientific instrumentation that allowed a magnification of more than 2 million times.

10. Best-Selling Authors—Vance Packard (*The Hidden Persuaders*, *The Status Seekers*) earned his degree from Penn State in 1936. Jean Craighead George, a member of the class of 1941, authored the Newberry Award-winning children's book, *Julie of the Wolves*.

11. Cinema—Penn State alumnus Julius Epstein won an Oscar for his screenplay for the classic Humphrey Bogart film, *Casablanca*. Character actor Ed Binns, class of 1937, received critical praise for supporting roles in such box office favorites as "Patton" and "Fail Safe."

12. Commercial Television—Penn State alumni who have made their mark in television include Carmen Finestra, an executive producer and writer for the hit ABC-TV comedy "Home Improvement," Jonathan Frakes (Commander Will Riker on the hit television series "Star Trek: The Next Generation"), and writer and director Stanley Lathan ("Cagney and Lacey," "Remington Steele" and "Sanford and Son").

13. Correspondence Courses—In 1892, Penn State became the first American college or university to offer correspondence courses in agriculture, an initiative that was followed by national expansion of correspondence instruction in many technical fields.

14. Diesel Engineering—One of the world's first academic research programs in diesel engineering began at Penn State in 1923. Discoveries in such areas as supercharging and scavenging helped to bring about today's fuel-efficient and powerful engines.

15. Discovering Planets—Alexander Wolszczan, professor of astronomy and astro-

physics, discovered the existence of three planets orbiting outside of our solar system—the first scientist to do so.

16. Driver Education—Amos Neyhart taught America's first classes for driver education teachers at Penn State in 1936, three years after he began the Nation's first driver education course at nearby State College High School.

17. Engineers Everywhere—One in 50 professionally licensed engineers in the U.S. is a Penn State graduate.

18. Environmentally Correct—Polymer scientist Bernard Gordon III developed a biodegradable plastic that, with the assistance of water, disappears in two years. Early tests indicate that molecular weight of the polymer reduces as water is added, and at 120 degrees to 140 degrees Fahrenheit, the material falls apart in three days.

19. Environmental Stress—The Noll Physiological Research Center, established in 1963, was the Nation's first academic research center dedicated to studying human tolerance to heat, cold and other environmental stresses, and served as the prototype for similar labs worldwide.

20. Family Doctors—Penn State's Milton S. Hershey Medical Center in 1967 became the Nation's first medical school to establish a department of family and community medicine on the same level as traditional medical specialties. It also introduced a residency in the field, thus foreshadowing a renewed emphasis Nationwide on family practitioners.

21. First AG Degrees—Penn State was the first American institution to confer baccalaureate degrees in agriculture, in 1861.

22. Geraniums—Penn State researchers developed the world's first commercially successful geranium grown from seed, the Nittany Lion Red.

23. Greek Leadership—With 56 fraternities and 29 sororities, Penn State has the largest number of Greek organizations of all colleges and universities in the country.

24. Heavy Water—Penn State physicist Ferdinand Brickwedde in 1931 produced the world's first measurable amount of deuterium, a hydrogen isotope needed to make "heavy water"—an essential ingredient in basic atomic research.

25. Ice Cream—In 1892 Penn State offered America's first collegiate instruction in ice cream manufacture, followed soon after by a pioneering "short course" program that has helped to make the University an international center for research in frozen confections. Ice cream gurus Ben & Jerry got their start from a correspondence course in ice cream making from Penn State.

26. Industrial Engineering—The world's first baccalaureate curriculum in industrial engineering was introduced at Penn State in 1908.

27. Management Education—Established in 1915 as one of the nation's first continuing education programs for business and industry, Penn State's management education classes boosted Pennsylvania's economy by tailoring instruction to thousands of clients statewide in such fields as time management, employee motivation and leadership, and served as models for similar efforts nationally.

28. Materials Research—In 1960, Penn State established the nation's first interdisciplinary curriculum in solid state technology and in 1962, created one of the first interdisciplinary research laboratories, which has since won international acclaim in materials synthesis, electroceramics, diamond films and chemically bonded ceramics.

29. Mathematics—Mathematician Haskell Brooks Curry's research in the 1950s into the foundations of mathematics, especially his development of combinatory logic, later

found significant application in computer science, particularly in the design of programming languages.

30. Meteorologists—One in every four meteorologists in the United States is a Penn State graduate.

31. Minority Enrollment—Among more than 100 colleges and universities in Pennsylvania, Penn State ranks second in the enrollment of African Americans and graduates more of these students than any other institution in the Commonwealth.

32. Mushroom Research—In the 1920s, Penn State became the first land-grant college to initiate a comprehensive mushroom research program. Researchers developed improved composts and production practices that were adopted by growers worldwide and also helped Pennsylvania retain its leadership as the No. 1 source of domestic mushrooms.

33. Music—Fred Waring, nationally beloved choral leader ("The man who taught America how to sing") and founder of The Pennsylvanians, was a Penn Stater. So is Grammy Award-winning singer, songwriter and pianist Mike Reid ("Stranger in the House," "Lost in the Fifties Tonight").

34. Nobel Prize—Stanford University biochemist Paul Berg, a member of Penn State's class of 1948, won a Nobel Prize in 1980 for his study of the biochemistry of nucleic acids.

35. Nuclear Reactor—Penn State in 1955 became the first university to be issued a federal license to operate a nuclear reactor, which it continues to use for studies in the peaceful uses of atomic energy and the training of nuclear industry personnel.

36. Pacemaker—A surgeon and two engineers at Penn State perfected the world's first long-life, rechargeable heart pacemaker.

37. Penn Staters Everywhere—Penn State has more than 466,000 living alumni. One in every 720 Americans, and one in every 70 Pennsylvanians, is a graduate of Penn State.

38. Personality Tests—In 1931, psychologist Robert Bernreuter began refining his "Bernreuter Personality Inventory," a pioneer multiphastic test of traits that became the standard by which other personality tests were measured and is still used worldwide for counseling and personnel selection.

39. Petroleum Research—In the 1920s, Penn State researchers began pioneering investigations that identified the components of crude oil, leading to significant improvements in the refining process and the development of today's widely used lubricants that can withstand extremes of heat and cold.

40. Playwrights—The hit Broadway play "Give'em Hell, Harry," based on the life of President Harry Truman and authored by Penn State alumnus Samuel Gallu, was made into a critically acclaimed motion picture. So was Penn Stater John Pielmeier's "Agnes of God," which received three Academy Award nominations.

41. Progesterone—Pioneer steroid chemist Russell Marker's work in synthesizing the hormone progesterone in the 1930s laid the foundation for the birth control pill and such medical applications as cortisones and various hormone and steroid therapies.

42. Public Television—The first national conference of educators and broadcasters was held at Penn State in 1952 and urged the Federal Communications Commission to set aside licenses for noncommercial use. The FCC responded favorably, thus providing the regulatory basis for today's system of public television stations.

43. Pure Food—Pennsylvania's and the Nation's pure food laws stem partly from the work of pioneer chemist William Frear, who in the early 1900s analyzed foods for government agencies and headed an expert com-

mittee whose recommendations shaped the landmark Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906.

44. R Values—This widely adopted standard of heat resistance, used to measure the insulating properties of such materials as fiberglass and window glass, was developed by Everett Shuman, who in the 1960s headed Penn State's Building Research Institute.

45. School Administrators—One out of every four senior school administrators in Pennsylvania is a graduate of Penn State.

46. Science, Technology, and Society—In 1969-70, Penn State established the Nation's first interdisciplinary program in science, technology and society. Its integrative courses addressing critical issues in these areas served as a model for similar programs at many other universities.

47. Telecommunications—Penn State alumnus Charles Krumreich invented the telephone jack. More than a billion of his patented Jack-11 square plastic plugs are used worldwide for telephones, modems, and fax machines.

48. Toymaker—Herman Fisher, co-founder and longtime chairman of the board of Fisher Price, one of the Nation's largest toymakers, graduated from Penn State in 1921.

49. Visionary Educator—Evan Pugh, Penn State's first president (1859-64), was among the first nationally recognized advocates of adding science, agriculture and engineering to traditional collegiate studies.

50. Weather Prediction—Meteorologist Hans Panofsky conducted fundamental work at Penn State (1952-82) that led to a new understanding of atmospheric turbulence, air pollution, ozone depletion and planetary atmospheres, and was among the first to apply computer analysis to weather prediction.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 7, 2004

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, June 25, I missed rollcall votes 321-325. Had I been present on this date, I would have voted "no" on rollcall votes Nos. 321-323 and "aye" on rollcall votes 324-325. On this date, I had committed to participating in an event in my congressional district that I was unable to miss.

DAILY INTERLAKE ARTICLE

HON. DENNIS R. REHBERG

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 7, 2004

Mr. REHBERG. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to submit this article from the Daily Interlake in Kalispell, Montana for the RECORD.

The Plum Creek Timber Company, Inc. is the second largest private timberland owner in the United States, including 1.3 million acres in my home state of Montana.

Last month, Plum Creek received the Patriot Award for contributing to national security through its personnel policies that support employee participation in the National Guard and Reserve.

On May 19, 2004, Brigadier General Randy Mosley of the Montana Army National Guard visited Plum Creek's Columbia Falls, Montana office and presented the award, on behalf of

the Department of Defense, to Art Vail, Flathead Unit Manager; Tom Ray, General Manager of Resources; and Hank Ricklefs, Vice President of Manufactured Products.

Plum Creek Senior Forester, Don Sneek from the Flathead Unit submitted the nomination for the award but was unable to attend the ceremony because he is presently serving in Iraq. He has served in the guard for 20 years and today flies a helicopter air ambulance, evacuating injured soldiers from southern Iraq to Kuwait. This is Don's third deployment in the last two years.

I congratulate Plum Creek on receiving this prestigious award and thank Don for his hard work on behalf of Plum Creek, his home state of Montana and his country.

[From the Daily Inter Lake, May 20, 2004]

PLUM CREEK HONORED FOR SOLDIER SUPPORT

(By Candace Chase)

Brig. Gen. Randy Mosley of the Montana Army National Guard brought certificates and thanks Wednesday to Plum Creek Timber Co. in Columbia Falls.

The company and three of its executives received patriot awards for contributing to national security by supporting their employee citizen soldiers.

Don Sneek, an employee and deployed guardsman, submitted their nominations.

Mosley honored Henry Ricklefs, vice president of manufactured goods; Tom Ray, general manager of resources; and Art Vail, Flathead unit manager. They received certificates at a management meeting in the Plum Creek board room.

In remarks before the ceremony, Mosley said he couldn't over-emphasize the importance of an employer's support for deployed soldiers in Iraq.

"It's an environment fraught with danger and uncertainty," he said. "We want to concentrate on what is in front of them."

Sneek couldn't attend the ceremony he initiated because he still serves in Iraq. Mosley said Sneek flies a helicopter air ambulance, evacuating injured soldiers from southern Iraq to Kuwait.

"There is no better sight than an air ambulance coming in," Mosley said.

According to Mosley, Sneek has served in the guard for 20 years. His unit has deployed three times in the last two years.

When not called to active duty, Sneek works as a senior forester at Plum Creek Timber.

Another Plum Creek employee soldier did attend the patriot award ceremony. Staff Sgt. Tavia Syme of the 889th Quartermaster Co. has returned to her job after deploying in Iraq.

The reservist said she worked in water purification. Syme said she had a tough time adjusting to heels in her administrative assistant job after 14 months in combat boots.

Syme estimated that about 20 to 25 others perform double duty as Plum Creek employees and part-time soldiers.

She said she appreciated her company's support as expressed in regularly shipped care packages of goodies such as pretzels, jerky, hard candy and greeting cards. The company also sponsored a welcome-home brunch for Syme.

As part of the award ceremony, the general showed a video called "A Soldier's Journey" which documented the experiences of soldiers like Syme before and during recent deployments.

"These are all Montanans—all soldiers who deployed," Mosley said. "Some are still deployed."

The general said that the nation intentionally organized the armed services with dependence on the Reserves and Guard. Once