

we gave the Commissioners an enormous task and today I want to recognize the efforts of the 16 Commissioners, 26 Advisors, and countless staff who helped to create such a comprehensive report. All of these people have spent a large portion of the past five months reading comments on the Preliminary Report provided by Governors, tribal interests, non-governmental organizations, and members of the public—not a small task. I am sure that the Commission's excitement over the release of the Final Report, an endeavor embarked upon roughly three years ago, approximates the thrill felt by those of us who love, care deeply about, and want to protect the oceans.

The Final Report of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy details the crises facing our oceans. Building on the Preliminary Report, the Final Report includes refinements in a few areas: the funding mechanism is provided in detail, marine cultural heritage is included, more attention is given to how climate change will affect the oceans, the intent to include all coastal areas such as the Great Lakes and Territories is clarified, and the important role that states should play in protecting ocean resources is emphasized.

While we have many crises—at home and abroad—that require our immediate attention, we cannot overlook the fact that our oceans are in a state of crisis, too. It is my sincere hope that both Members of Congress and the Bush Administration will read the U.S. Commission's Report and realize that our oceans need attention—now—and that the country is looking to us—their leaders—to act. I look forward to analyzing the President's response to the Final Report, a response that, under law, must be submitted within 90 days of today.

We all depend on our oceans and coasts, from the person who lives off the water to the person who visits once in a lifetime. The oceans provide food, jobs, vacation spots, scientific knowledge, and opportunities for reflection. Despite our inability to measure the many non-market values associated with our oceans and coasts, we are able to quantify some of the benefits they provide. For example, over a trillion dollars is added to our economy each year by ocean and coastal economies. I trust that we can all agree that this is a huge contribution; a contribution that must be protected so the returns keep coming.

Protection of our oceans will require a change of course. Unfortunately, all too often we take our oceans for granted: we underestimate their value and we ignore the negative consequences human-related activities can have on them. Our oceans represent the largest public trust resource in the U.S. and cover an area nearly one and a half times the size of the continental United States. Americans expect the Government to safeguard this vast resource and I hope that the Final Report will be the impetus for us to actually begin to do so.

Simply put, our current ocean and coastal management system, created over thirty years ago, is archaic and incompatible with new knowledge about how the oceans and coastal waters function as a whole. Our policies are fragmented, both institutionally and geographically. For example, Mr. Speaker, today we find ourselves with over ten federal departments involved in the implementation of more than 130 ocean-related statutes. It is time to reconsider this incoherent and oftentimes incom-

patible management situation and bring order to our ocean governance structure. The U.S. Commission's Report offers some guidance on how to do just this.

One of the biggest advances in our understanding of oceans to occur since our last national review of ocean policy is that the natural world functions as ecosystems, with each species intricately connected to the other parts that make up the whole. The U.S. Commission's Final Report, as well as the independent Pew Oceans Commission Report released in June of 2003, clearly states that we must adopt a new policy framework that is based on the concept of "the whole," an ecosystem-based approach rather than one based on political boundaries. This approach will not be as easy or straightforward as our previous approaches, but we must dedicate ourselves to making it a reality. With a comprehensive national ocean policy explicitly written to maintain healthy ocean ecosystems, our oceans will be a bountiful resource in which we can all take pride.

The Final Report released yesterday also stresses the importance of instilling a new ecosystem-based stewardship ethic. Involved in instilling this ethic is increasing ocean-related education for all Americans at all levels, from first-graders learning how to read to graduate students investigating intricate scientific processes. The U.S. Commission details suggestions on how we can instill a new stewardship ethic by emphasizing and investing in greater marine science education. I see this recommendation—that of committing ourselves to teaching people about all aspects of the oceans and how our activities can have negative consequences for ocean ecosystems—as being fundamental to ensuring a better future for our oceans.

It is up to each of us to not let this unprecedented opportunity pass us by—we cannot wait any longer to clean up this mess we have created for our oceans. On this point both the Pew and U.S. Commission reports are adamant: we must rethink the way we look at the oceans. We are at a turning point in oceans management and we have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to take the momentum created by the two ocean reports and make long lasting changes to protect our seas.

Within the Legislative Branch, I have been working to bring attention to oceans issues. I worked with my fellow co-chairs of the bi-partisan House Oceans Caucus, Mr. JIM GREENWOOD (R-PA), Mr. TOM ALLEN (D-ME), and Mr. CURT WELDON (R-PA), to introduce a comprehensive oceans bill, H.R. 4900 (informally known as OCEANS-21). OCEANS-21 answers the calls of the Pew and U.S. Commissions by establishing a clear national oceans policy and by providing a framework for addressing the many problems outlined in the reports. I hope that those in the majority party will recognize the bi-partisan nature of OCEANS-21 and give it consideration during this session of Congress. In addition to my efforts on H.R. 4900, I am working closely with Mr. RAHALL, Ranking Member of the House Resources Committee, on his efforts to implement those recommendations from the Pew and U.S. Commissions that address management of our nation's fishery resources (H.R. 4706). The specific elements of this bill include separating the biological science from the allocation decisions, implementing conflict of interest requirements for members of the

fishery councils, and broadening representation on the councils. I am also the lead sponsor on H.R. 4100, a bill that addresses the problem of pollution from cruise ships, and am a cosponsor of both H.R. 4897, a bill to protect deep sea corals, and H.R. 5001, a bill to establish an ocean observation pilot project that will move us closer to having an integrated ocean observation system. Individual members of the House of Representatives have been working hard to introduce legislation that implements the changes needed to ensure that the oceans we pass to the next generations are oceans that we can be proud of. We are now looking to the House leadership to consider our bills and to make good on the collective responsibility we have to future generations.

Within the Executive Branch, the Bush Administration has a prime opportunity to take the steps necessary to instill a new ocean ethic in our government. In fact, Pew and U.S. Commission recommendation-based action by this Administration could very well save our largest public trust. The time for leadership is now. I am dedicated to providing it in Congress, with the help of my fellow Oceans Caucus co-chairs and other colleagues concerned about ocean issues, and I hope the President will provide it in the White House.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to close with a quote from the Final Report that encapsulates my thoughts on the importance of yesterday's historic occasion:

The responsibility of our generation is to reclaim and renew the oceans for ourselves, for our children, and—if we do the job right—for those whose footprints will mark the sands of beaches from Maine to Hawaii long after ours have washed away.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to dedicate themselves to shaping a better future for our oceans.

## HONORING THE ACADEMY OF TEJANO ARTISTS AND MUSICIANS

**HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 21, 2004*

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the House of Representatives, I wish to recognize the Academy of Tejano Artists and Musicians, also known as the "Tejano Academy," for mobilizing a unified effort and creating this organization headquartered in San Antonio, Texas. The Tejano Academy is a unique musician-led organization that is committed to ensuring that artists and musicians have a voice of advocacy in the entertainment industry.

The Tejano Academy is the first organization of its kind in the Tejano Music Industry to encourage its membership to recognize and honor talent without relying on record sales, airplay, or any other type of monetary gain in an effort to diversify and elevate music standards. By diversifying categories, they are able to bring due recognition to artists and musicians who have been continuously overlooked and subsequently, educate the public about Tejano music.

The success of the Tejano Academy is due to the great leadership of the following Board Members: Donald Garza, President; Zeke Martinez, 1st Vice President; David Lee

Garza, 2nd Vice President; Stefani Montiel, 3rd Vice President; Sasha Sullivan, Secretary; Steve Roth; and Gibby Escobedo, Parliamentarian. Additionally, the Tejano Academy would not have been realized without the hard work, unwavering commitment and long hours persevered by Executive Director, Chayo Zaldivar. With this great team's continued hard work, the Tejano Academy is filling an important void in the Tejano Music Industry.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to recognize the many achievements and services provided by the Academy of Tejano Artists and Musicians. Please join me in honoring the Tejano Academy on September 19, 2004 for their 1st Annual Awards Presentation and Banquet.

#### THE KANSAS-PARAGUAY PARTNERSHIP

#### HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 21, 2004*

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, August 1, 2004 a devastating fire engulfed the Ycuá Bolaños supermarket in Asunción, Paraguay, resulting in 399 deaths and many more injuries. In light of the long-standing relationship between the State of Kansas and Paraguay, on behalf of the citizens of Kansas' Third Congressional District, and on behalf of all Kansans, I wish to express our deep condolences to the citizens of Paraguay after this time of national tragedy.

The Kansas Paraguay Partnership was started 36 years ago as part of the international Partners of the Americas, headquartered in Washington, D.C., in which states in the United States are paired with countries or regions in Latin America and the Caribbean. The cross cultural pairing between Paraguay and Kansas is one of 60 partnerships throughout the Americas whose linkages provide assistance when help is needed.

The relief effort in the aftermath of the fire was directed and carried out by volunteers from Partners of the Americas' Paraguayan chapter with assistance from its counterpart chapter here in Kansas. All firemen in Paraguay are volunteers and depend to a great extent on donated equipment. Efforts are currently underway in both Paraguay and Kansas to replace the fire equipment which was lost in fighting the fire.

Partners of the Americas is today one of the largest private sector networks of volunteers in the Western Hemisphere. It mobilizes citizens to serve as a grassroots, people-to-people catalyst for change. Volunteer initiatives have resulted in a rich array of programs, such as the Kansas-Paraguay efforts to strengthen citizen participation and improve farming operations, as well as increasing understanding through cultural and educational exchanges. This unique, twofold approach has turned thousands of ideas into creative action across borders.

Mr. Speaker, I know that all members of this House join with me in sharing our support with the people of Paraguay during this difficult time.

#### RECOGNIZING REPRESENTATIVE D.J. DAVIS

#### HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 21, 2004*

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, Missouri State Representative D.J. Davis is retiring at the end of the year. He has served the people of the 122nd district since 1996.

A graduate of North Andrew High School in Rosendale, Missouri, Representative Davis graduated with a bachelor of science degree in secondary education from Northwest Missouri State University in 1962 and a master's degree in secondary administration in 1970. Before serving in the Missouri House of Representatives, Representative Davis worked in the field of education for more than 30 years. He retired as the principal of Odessa High School in Odessa, Missouri.

As an educator, Representative Davis was recognized for his contributions to the field. He received the Missouri Association of Secondary School Principals Silver Service Award in 1991 for 25 years as a secondary school principal. Additionally, he received awards from the Lafayette County Farm Bureau, the Mighty MO 4-H Club, the Missouri Association for Career and Technical Education and the AARP.

Mr. Speaker, whether as an educator or a legislator, Representative Davis has worked on behalf of others and is truly a role model for young Missourians. He has made important contributions to both fields. I know my fellow Members of the House will join me in thanking him for his many years of service and in wishing him all the best in the years ahead.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE EMERGENCY LOAN ABUSE PREVENTION ACT OF 2004

#### HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 21, 2004*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Emergency Loan Abuse Prevention Act of 2004, along with my colleagues, Representatives VAN HOLLEN and GEORGE MILLER. Through a loophole in the Higher Education Act, nearly \$1 billion in special student loan subsidies will be paid by the Federal government to lenders this year, rather than used for financial aid for students. This bill closes this loophole and requires the savings to be used to increase the maximum Pell grant.

This antiquated subsidy results from an obscure provision in the Higher Education Act and its regulations which provide lenders a 9.5 percent rate of return on certain student loans. This rate of return is excessive when you consider that lenders are guaranteed approximately a 3.5 percent rate of return on other student loans.

The 9.5 percent guarantee was established in the high interest rate year of 1980. Congress intended for it to phase out of existence beginning in 1993. But through a loophole, the guarantee has continued. Both the New York Times and the L.A. Times have reported on

this loophole. The Government Accountability Office (GAO) has issued a report which calls for the Department of Education to correct its regulations on this matter—an action the Bush Department of Education is refusing to take.

This special subsidy has caused a lost financial opportunity for students. Students are bearing the brunt of rising college costs and shrinking grant aid. This bill provides an opportunity to correct this problem.

Despite this issue being addressed in the last Presidential Budget, the recent reaction by the Bush Administration has been inaction and silence. Rather than eliminate the use of this provision through immediate regulation, the Bush Administration has let this special subsidy triple in the past 3 years. In FY 2001, the 9.5 percent guarantee cost American taxpayers approximately \$200 million. Now GAO and others have estimated that this cost is projected to be nearly five times greater this fiscal year. The GAO report estimates that on top of this year's near billion dollar cost, growth in the special subsidy will cost an additional \$2.8 billion in future years, if not halted immediately.

This bill closes the loophole which the Bush Department of Education and this Republican Congress has permitted to go unchecked. The amendment ends this special subsidy and expends the savings to increase the maximum Pell grant for needy students.

I urge Members to join me and others in supporting this legislation.

#### THE PRAIRIE ROSE CHAPTER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION SALUTES CONSTITUTION WEEK

#### HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 21, 2004*

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, the week of September 17–23 has been officially designated as Constitution Week. This marks the 217th anniversary of the signing of our Constitution.

The guardian of our liberties, our Constitution established our republic as a self-governing nation dedicated to rule by law. This document is the cornerstone of our freedom. It was written to protect every American from the abuse of power by government. Without that restraint, our founders believed the republic would perish.

The ideals upon which our Constitution is based are reinforced each day by the success of our political system to which it gave birth. The success of our way of government requires an enlightened citizenry.

Constitution Week provides an opportunity for all Americans to recall the achievements of our founders, the nature of limited government, and the rights, privileges and responsibilities of citizenship. It provides us the opportunity to be better informed about our rights, freedoms and duties as citizens.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I particularly want to take note of the outstanding work of the Prairie Rose Chapter of the Kansas Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, which is actively involved in the Third Congressional District in events this week commemorating Constitution Week. The Prairie Rose Chapter has been involved with this effort in our communities for a number of years and I commend them for doing so.