

many causes she has worked so hard for. She leaves big shoes to fill and we will miss working with her for the betterment of San Jose State University. Good luck Janet.

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

HON. DIANE E. WATSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, a very important initiative is being launched in my district by the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County. Many of us think of a museum as merely a place to visit to see educational exhibits. That is not always the case. Many of our Nation's museums are leading the way in critical scientific research.

The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County is one such museum. It is the steward of one of the world's largest collections of marine life, representing hundreds of years of ocean biodiversity. The Museum aims to organize its valuable, world class marine collection and merge that with new research opportunities to gather and distribute information critical to biodiversity studies and conservation efforts. With this, the Museum is establishing the West Coast Center for Marine Biodiversity as a hub for oceanic preservation and research.

The West Coast Center for Marine Biodiversity will be an extraordinary public-private partnership that will benefit the world's oceans and the future sustainability of its valuable resources. Most importantly, the Center will take a significant step to fulfilling the goals of the Federal Government to save the world's oceans and the ecosystems they support.

There has been significant news lately regarding the status of the world's oceans with the release of the Ocean's Commission Report earlier this year. I know the researchers and data at the West Coast Center for Biodiversity can be a tremendous asset to the efforts at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and other Federal departments and agencies doing similar work. I strongly encourage the development of a partnership with these Federal entities and the West Coast Center for Marine Biodiversity at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County.

LEONARD C. BURCH POST OFFICE
BUILDING

SPEECH OF

HON. JEFF FLAKE

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 6, 2004

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in condemning the ongoing civil war in Southern Sudan and the genocide in the Darfur region of the same country.

I was with my colleagues of the House of Representatives on July 22, 2004, when we unanimously voted in favor of H. Con. Res. 467, a resolution declaring that the atrocities in Darfur, Sudan, are genocide. That same resolution commends the Administration's leadership in seeking a peaceful resolution to

the conflict in Darfur and in addressing the ensuing humanitarian crisis.

I do not support H.R. 5061, Comprehensive Peace in Sudan Act, however, because I believe it limits the President's options in dealing with Sudan at a time when he should have flexibility. I expect continued resolve from the administration and believe that we should preserve whatever flexibility is needed to move toward effective solutions in Sudan.

SPACE AND AERONAUTICS PRIZE
ACT

HON. DANA ROHRBACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics, I can think of no better way to end my tenure than to finally witness the dream of commercial human space flight becoming a reality. Burt Rutan's tremendous accomplishment this week not only proved that space is no longer the sole domain of government, but it is a testament to the innovative and creative potential of space entrepreneurs. On my watch, I've been privileged to peer into the future of dynamic citizen astronauts routinely flying to and from the heavens. I applaud the hard work and dedication of Burt Rutan and the good people behind the Ansari X-Prize. They are shining examples of the American can-do spirit at its best.

Commercial space transportation is advancing on-orbit services that have so enriched our daily lives. The private sector should be encouraged to continue this successful trend. I am convinced a new generation of space entrepreneurs is ready to make their mark in contributing to low Earth orbit development, as well as returning to the Moon.

In the past, prizes have played an important role by promoting progress in the development of aviation. Charles Lindbergh won the \$10,000 private Orteig Prize for becoming the first man to fly solo across the Atlantic, and the U.S. government offered prizes in the 1920s and 1930s to meet its aviation needs. The X-Prize has served as a means to stimulate private manned space activities. I believe we can do more in making the President's vision for space exploration a reality by awarding cash prizes to encourage greater participation of the private sector in the national space program. Today, I am introducing legislation that will establish a National Endowment for Space and Aeronautics for the national good.

The Endowment is intended to provide an exciting new incentive to private sector space entrepreneurs. Cash prizes in recognition of outstanding achievements in the scientific research and technology development are envisioned as critical to the Endowment's program. The program also is directed to receive donations and private gifts for the benefit of the Nation's aeronautics and space endeavors.

The Endowment is specifically directed to award a prize for the demonstration of a reusable space flight vehicle to carry at least one person to a minimum altitude of 400 kilometers from the United States, or its territories. The spacecraft is to complete at least three complete orbits of the Earth and return

safely to the Earth. The total amount of the cash prize for this demonstration is not to exceed \$100,000,000.

Like the pioneers before them, I'm encouraged that individuals like Burt Rutan, Mike Melvill and Brian Binnie, as well as others, will open new frontiers that will continue to benefit American's leadership role in space. The Endowment legislation is a small step in the right direction.

TAIWAN'S NATIONAL DAY

HON. GIL GUTKNECHT

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I extend my best wishes and congratulations to Taiwan Ambassador David Lee, President Chen Shui-bian, and the 23 million people of the Republic of China on the occasion of their National Day, October 10th.

The United States is Taiwan's largest trading partner. In 2000, total U.S.-Taiwan trade was approximately \$65 billion, with a Taiwan surplus of approximately \$16 billion. Taiwan's chief exports to the United States include clothing and footwear, toys, and various electronic products. In recent years, Taiwanese government officials have attempted to accommodate increased U.S. pressure on trade issues by meeting many U.S. demands for greater market access for U.S. goods and services, and responded to U.S. complaints by taking stronger measures to protect U.S. copyrights and other intellectual property rights.

The Republic of China on Taiwan is a genuine democracy and its people enjoy one of the highest standards of living in the world. As one of our largest trading partners and friends in the Far East, it is my opinion that the Republic of China on Taiwan deserves much greater international recognition. I will continue to press for more favorable U.S. treatment of Taiwan and for Taiwan's inclusion in some capacity in international organizations like the World Health Organization. Taiwan's participation in the World Health Organization is vital to the interests of the people of Taiwan, and will open Taiwan's access to the latest information on epidemics and diseases. I have joined the House Taiwan Caucus to express my support of this important ally.

I hope that we will continue to strengthen U.S.-Taiwan relations and raise the level of strategic cooperation between the United States and Taiwan in accordance with the Taiwan Relations Act.

INTRODUCTION OF THE UTAH RECREATIONAL LANDS EXCHANGE
ACT OF 2004

HON. JIM MATHESON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of legislation that my colleague CHRIS CANNON and I are introducing in the House today. I am pleased that so many stakeholders have come together to create this legislation, which will preserve thousands

of acres of land along the Colorado River corridor and help to fund Utah's schools.

Since statehood, Utahns has been blessed with millions of acres of lands that are held in trust to generate funding for our schools. These lands are scattered throughout the state in a checkerboard pattern, making it hard for Utah and the federal agencies with adjacent property to manage our public lands. The legislation we are introducing today would consolidate some of these lands, with the goals of improving the state's ability to maximize the funding it earns for schools, preserving land along the Colorado River corridor for recreational use, and easing the Department of Interior's ability to manage federal land in Utah.

The land exchange that is being proposed today has the potential to be a win-win solution for the State of Utah and the United States. This legislation seeks to create an equal value exchange where both American taxpayers and the school children of Utah get a fair deal. Important to achieving this goal, the legislation establishes a valuation process that is transparent for the public to view.

This legislation represents a truly collaborative process with all of the stakeholders represented. It is supported by local government, the State of Utah, the recreation community, and the environmental community and has been worked on closely with the Department of Interior. The State has been working over the past year to address the concerns of all of the stakeholders and will continue to work until the legislation is perfected.

The introduction of this legislation marks Congressman CANNON's and my commitment to working with the local stakeholders, appropriate congressional committees, and the Department of Interior to craft a legislative product with a broad range of support. I urge the Secretary of Interior and her staff to dedicate the resources and time necessary to move this process forward in the coming months.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION CLARIFYING THE LAW PROHIBITING STATES FROM IMPOSING A TAX ON THE RETIREMENT INCOME OF NON-RESIDENTS OF THAT STATE

HON. CHRIS CANNON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing legislation to clarify Public Law 104-95, adopted by the Congress in 1995, prohibiting States from taxing the retirement income of nonresidents. That law was enacted in response to actions of some States which were aggressively seeking to tax nonresidents on retirement income from past employment in that state. The Congress felt that State taxation of nonresidents' retirement income was unfair and imposed an unreasonable burden on nonresident retirees.

The law defines "retirement income" as any income from specified types of qualified pension plans or from a nonqualified deferred compensation plan that meets certain payment requirements. Nonqualified deferred compensation plans are defined by reference to section 3121(v)(2)(C) of the Internal Revenue

Code (the "Code") which relates to employment taxes. Specifically, any income of an individual who is not a resident of the taxing State from any plan, program, or arrangement described in section 3121(v)(2)(C) is exempt from that State's income tax, provided the income received from such plan is part of a series of substantially equal periodic payments made—no less frequently than annually—over the life expectancy of the recipient, or for a period of not less than 10 years.

I think the intent of the law is clear, but I am aware that a question could arise regarding state taxation of nonqualified retirement benefits paid by a partnership to its retired nonresident partners. Specifically, the concern is that the reference to section 3121(v)(2)(C) of the Code could be construed to limit the exemption to payments made only to retired employees—i.e. those individuals subjected to FICA tax—since that provision is written in the context of employment taxation. Under this view, nonqualified retirement benefits paid by a partnership to its retired nonresident partners would not be exempt from nonresident state income taxation because there is no specific reference to self-employed individuals in the Public Law 104-95, section 3121(v)(2)(C) of the Code, or subsequently issued Treasury Regulations for that section.

The bill makes it clear that section 3121(v)(2)(C) was meant to define nonqualified deferred compensation income, irrespective of whether the recipient was subject to FICA tax, by specifically including self-employed plans or arrangements. The rationale for applying the statute's exemption for employee retirement income applies equally to retirement income of an independent contractor or partner. Given the fact that the bill is intended to clarify what has been the intent of the bill all along, it applies as of the effective date of Public Law 104-95, i.e., to amounts received after December 31, 1995.

THE CONGRESSIONAL CONFERENCE ON CIVIC EDUCATION

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, the Honorable Judge Learned Hand once said:

... Liberty lies in the hearts of men and women; when it dies there, no constitution, no law, no court can save it; no constitution, no law, no court can even do much to help it. While it lies there, it needs no constitution, no law, no court to save it.

These famous words emphasize the fact that civic participation is vital to the maintenance of a healthy democracy. A national effort is currently underway to promote the civic engagement of our citizens by focusing on the youth of our nation. By creating effective civic education programs in our elementary and secondary schools, we can educate kids at an early age and encourage them to become active in local politics.

In September of last year, the First Annual Congressional Conference on Civic Education was launched to begin a national conversation about how to encourage civic participation. One of the positive outcomes of the congressional conference was the establishment of

state delegations that would enact specific policies designed to restore the civic mission of our schools.

I would like to recognize Diane N. Palmer, the facilitator, and the whole Massachusetts delegation for their leadership in working to design a strategy to improve civic education in our State. These Massachusetts activities include: Holding a statewide conference on civic education for new teachers; creating a commission to plan better civic education; and conducting a survey to determine what civic education programs are already used in high schools.

I look forward to seeing the accomplishments of the Massachusetts civic education delegation and their participation at the Second Annual Congressional Conference on Civic Education on December 4-6 of this year.

FEDERAL CHARTER FOR THE AMERICAN INDIAN VETERANS ASSOCIATION

HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 8, 2004

Mr. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that would recognize and grant a Federal charter for the National American Indian Veterans Association.

Native Americans have long answered the call to serve in our Nation's military and to make the sacrifices necessary to protect this country. In fact, in World War II, more than one-third of all able-bodied Indian men between the ages of 18 and 50 served in our nation's military. Even today, Native Americans have the highest rate of military service of any ethnic group in the country. Native American soldiers serve willingly and honorably and they should have a veterans' organization befitting that service.

Last week, the National American Indian Veterans Association, held its first annual meeting in Phoenix, AZ. Native American veterans from around the country attended this convention and voted unanimously to approve the charter for this new organization. I believe this organization is long overdue and I enthusiastically introduce this legislation today.

Over the years, Congress has chartered many veterans' organizations that represent specific groups: the American War Mothers, the Blinded Veterans Association, Catholic War Veterans, Italian American War Veterans of the USA, Jewish War Veterans of the USA, the National Association for Black Veterans, and the Polish Legion of American Veterans, just to name a few. Providing a federal charter for the American Indian Veterans Association is the right thing to do and it will provide many advantages for its thousands of potential members.

It will connect its members with a network of fellow veterans that will enable them to share information as well provide each other with as personal and emotional support. This group will serve as a resource and a clearinghouse for Native American veterans to discover what benefits to which they may be entitled, and assist them in taking full advantage of the many veterans' programs that may be geared to meet their needs.

I believe that the National American Indian Veterans Association would be an important