

States and Canada. Imported from Europe in the early 1800s, this plant is virtually impossible to eradicate, and its vegetative dominance often crowds out native plants and animals.

Ms. Kiel's essay is the winner of a recent essay contest for Michigan high school students sponsored by the Great Lakes Sea Grant Network and The Muskegon Chronicle. Students were asked to propose a creative, realistic and environmentally sound plan for managing an aquatic non-native invasive species in the Great Lakes.

As a Member of Congress whose district borders roughly 200 miles of beautiful Lake Michigan shoreline, I have observed firsthand the devastation invasive species can cause to the ecosystem and the economy. I am pleased to insert this essay into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, and I hope that its presentation will continue to raise awareness of this serious environmental problem.

PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE: A BEAUTIFUL KILLER
(By Alyn Kiel)

Imagine a quiet walk along the lakeshore after a long absence. As you stroll along, you notice clusters of lavender flowers, and remark at their beautiful appearance. But as your journey continues, you see that most of the usual flora and fauna you would have observed a decade ago have completely disappeared. The culprit? The supposedly innocent plant you remarked upon earlier: purple loosestrife.

Purple loosestrife, or *Lythrum salicaria*, was brought to the eastern United States in the early 1800s by settlers as a medicinal herb and in the ballast holds of European ships. The spread of purple loosestrife increased with the construction of waterways, railways and canals. By the 1930s, it had moved inland [and could be found in most states and provinces] in the United States and Canada.

One of the most recognizable features of this marsh monster is a ridged, square stem. One plant can produce up to 30 stems from one central root mass. Leaves are smooth and attached directly to the stem. Flowers appear between late June and late September, and are purple in color.

Over 3 million seeds can be produced by one mature plant. Seeds are small, light and easily dispersed by wind. Each seed has high viability (nearly 100 percent germination rate) and remain so after years of being buried under soil or submersion under water. Seeds can be transported by animals, clothing, vehicles and rainfall, which carries them into river systems and wetlands.

Nicknames for purple loosestrife—beautiful killer, marsh monster and exotic invader among them—are extremely illustrative. Purple loosestrife easily establishes itself within urban and rural wetland areas. Once it's present, it's nearly impossible to destroy. It has a tendency to dominate native vegetation. This change in species composition has drastic effects on the wildlife population. Loosestrife [frequently] blocks water flow in ditches and irrigation canals.

No herbicides are currently approved to control loosestrife,** but small outbreaks can be removed by hand digging, as long as all pieces of root tissue are removed. However, for large scale infestations, this is costly and time consuming, and therefore is not a practical solution.

One innovative option being used in many wetlands across Canada and some areas of North America is Integrated Pest Management (IPM). Through this form of biological control, purple loosestrife is reunited with its natural enemies. Four insects are cur-

rently being used—two leaf eating beetles, a root mining weevil, and a seed weevil. These plant eating insects do not harm any other native plants or the natural environment. In certain areas of North America, IPM is providing total control of loosestrife. Through this method, purple loosestrife is effectively destroyed and herbicides and chemicals do not have to be used in sensitive areas.***

A second method of biological control is the removal of garden varieties of purple loosestrife. Although it was originally believed that garden varieties of loosestrife were sterile, recent scientific studies have shown that they are indeed capable of seed and pollen production. These varieties of loosestrife can exchange pollen with other cultivars and the wild population. The majority of wild infestations of purple loosestrife are the result of garden escapes.

The best way to remove loosestrife from a garden is through hand digging. All pieces of root tissue should be removed and plant material should be dried out thoroughly before disposal. Root masses can be treated with an herbicide, such as Round-Up. All plant material should be placed in a dark colored garbage bag and secured tightly to prevent infestation of the landfill.

In Canada, an exchange program has been created to exchange purple loosestrife for an environmentally safe native plant. Experts dispose of the loosestrife correctly, and residents are given native plants similar to loosestrife to replace in their gardens. A program such as this would be beneficial for Western Michigan. In this way, the purple loosestrife population is controlled, and the rebuilding of native habitats is promoted.

In order to prevent infestation of native habitats, it is necessary for informational programs to be created and promoted further within this area. As community members are informed of the danger of loosestrife, the greater amount of supporters will be gained for its control. If the entire community works together to exterminate this problem, [we will come] closer to rebuilding our wetlands.

*A healthy, mature plant can produce up to 2.7 million seeds per year.

**Currently, glyphosphate, sold under the trade name RODEO, is the only effective purple loosestrife herbicide that is registered for aquatic use. However, it is non-selective and will affect the vegetation surrounding the target plant.

***Based on studies, three insects have been approved for release in the U.S., including one root boring weevil and two leaf eating beetles. The use of a pest's natural enemies to regulate its population and reduce damage is referred to as biological control. Biological control is only one method of Integrated Pest Management (IPM), which is a strategy to control a pest using a combination of methods.

Source: Purple Loosestrife in Michigan: Biology, Ecology, and Management, 1997, produced by Michigan Sea Grant and Michigan State University Extension.

HONORING JAMES OWEN RUSH

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2004

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an Irish Catholic and New Deal Democrat, Jim Rush. Beloved husband of Joan, Jim passed on January 2, 2004 after a hard-fought two year battle against cancer, surviving much longer than the doctors had ever predicted.

James Rush was born December 9, 1938, at Providence Hospital in Oakland, to two veterans of the Oakland General Strike, Eugene Rush and Esther Kelly-Rush. He attended and graduated Sacred Heart and St. Elizabeth's High School in Oakland. Just like his father, he lived his entire life at 472 & 474 W. MacArthur Boulevard, in the houses his grandfather, Owen Code Rush built sometime near 1870.

After high school, Jim was the night-manager at Doggie-Dinner's in Oakland. In 1962 he joined Teamsters Local 70 and was elected Chief Steward at Sears in 1969. He was arrested 3 times in the Coors Strike in Alameda in 1970. In 1972, he led the Sears Strike and was also elected Recording Secretary of Teamsters Local 70. Jim was injured on the job in 1980 and joined the law offices of John E. Hill, investigating "Serious & Willful Fraud of Injured Workers by Employers & Insurance Companies."

In 1981, Jim became interested in Palmistry & Tarot Card Reading, eventually becoming a world-renowned spiritualist and author. Published and broadcast under the name Jay Owen Swift, he founded Oakland's Palmistry Academy of Ancient Wisdom and until 2001, hosted the "Mystic-Eye," a spiritually oriented radio show on KEST in San Francisco.

In 1985, Jim was elected to the board of directors of the Instituto Laboral De La Raza, a non-profit community organization dedicated to assisting Latino immigrant working families in San Francisco, where he remained an Advisory Board Member until his death. In 1996, Jim was elected to the Executive Board of SEIU Local 616 after organizing the staff of his law firm into the union. He was appointed as a delegate to the Central Labor Council of Alameda County AFL-CIO in 1997 and elected by his fellow delegates to the Council's Union Label and Credentials Committee. On September 20, 2002, Jim was awarded the Instituto's "Santo Patricio Award." James P. Hoffa, General President of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters traveled from Washington D.C. to make the presentation.

Finally, I want to honor him for being an exemplary role model, community leader, and friend. I take great pride in joining Jim's family, friends and colleagues to recognize and salute the accomplishments and contributions of James Owen "Jimmy" Rush.

HONORING ROSE DERGIN

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2004

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rose Dergin, a resident of my Fifth Congressional District of Florida and a woman who has become something very few of us ever will. Mrs. Dergin is a centenarian and at 101 she is a mother to one child, a grandmother to three grandchildren, and a great-grandmother to five great-grandchildren!

Mrs. Dergin was born in New York City but went to School in Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey. At 17 she worked as a long distance telephone operator and following school, she worked as a bookbinder. She describes her happiest moment as her wedding day. Today

one of her favorite activities is playing cards until her eyes hurt!

After 101 years, Mrs. Dergin says if she had to live life all over again, she'd love to be a sketch artist, a hobby she had to give up in order to support her family. When asked what advice she'd give to young people she said, "Listen to your parents." She says the best thing about growing older is having her family around.

Mr. Speaker, and my colleagues, I ask that you join me in honoring Rose Dergin today. I hope we all have the good fortune to live as long as she has. She is truly a great lady and someone with an appreciation for the importance of family and closeness.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN THOMAS DYE
SCHOOL ON ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2004

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a truly remarkable educational institution in the 30th Congressional District—the John Thomas Dye School—on its 75th anniversary.

The John Thomas Dye School in Los Angeles, California, was founded in 1929 by Cathryn Robberts Dye and John Thomas Dye II. Originally named the Brentwood Town and Country School, it opened with ten students in 1929 at the corner of 26th Street and San Vicente Boulevard. One of these students was the founders' own son, John Thomas Dye III, who later was tragically killed while a pilot in World War II. In 1959, the school was renamed the John Thomas Dye School in memory of its fallen son.

In 1960, the school was moved to its present campus at 1141 Chalon Road. The very next year, the school burned to the ground in the Bel Air Fire. Thanks to the dedication of its founders, and the unwavering and generous support of the community, the school was rebuilt in one year.

Today, this independent, nonprofit school educates children from preschool through 6th grade. In addition to its strong academic program, the John Thomas Dye School places special emphasis on the "Five Cs": Caring, Common Sense, Consideration, Cooperation, and Courtesy. Throughout its 75 year history, the school has touched the lives of over 1,500 graduates, thousands of parents, and an exceptional faculty and staff.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the John Thomas Dye School family on the occasion of its 75th anniversary.

CELEBRATION OF LUNAR NEW
YEAR

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2004

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to represent a vibrant and strong Asian American and Pacific Islander community that is a historic part of San Francisco's world-re-

nowned diversity, and I rise today to recognize the celebration of the Lunar New Year, the most cherished Chinese festival.

The Lunar New Year marks the beginning of a new season and is a time of renewed hope. It is considered a time to sweep away misfortune and to welcome the New Year with hopes of good luck, prosperity, and excellent health.

The Lunar New Year celebration begins on the new moon of the first day of each year and ends on the full moon 15 days later. Family is a major focus of the Lunar New Year celebration, and participants pay great respect to their ancestors who laid the foundations for the well-being of their families. The Lantern Festival, which concludes the celebration with a parade of brilliant lanterns, the music of drums, and a dragon dance performed by youth, is especially beautiful.

By the Chinese calendar, this is the year 4,701, the Year of the Monkey. The Monkey represents the inventor and innovator and symbolizes growth and development. In many ways, the Monkey epitomizes the entrepreneurial spirit of my district in San Francisco and our ability to overcome great challenges.

The U.S. Postal Service recently issued its Year of the Monkey Stamp, the final in its spectacular Lunar New Year commemorative stamp series. It has been a great pleasure to celebrate the 12 years of the Chinese Zodiac with the stamps designed by artist Clarence Lee, and I am proud to display these beautiful images on the walls of my office. Thank you to the Organization of Chinese Americans, to the U.S. Postal Service, and to the leaders of San Francisco's Chinese American Community for your hard work to make this wonderful series a reality.

By percentage, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are the country's fastest growing ethnic group, and the community is a dynamic part of our nation. The Lunar New Year is a wonderful opportunity to recognize the immeasurable contributions of Asian American and Pacific Islanders to all aspects of American life, including the arts, education, sports, medicine, religion, and politics. It is my pleasure to join with so many of my constituents and with Asian American and Pacific Islanders across the country to celebrate the Lunar New Year.

RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF ILC DOVER INC. AND
ATK ELKTON

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 21, 2004

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the recent accomplishments of ILC Dover Inc., located in Frederica, Delaware. ILC Dover has long been a partner in this country's space exploration efforts. From manufacturing space suits for the Apollo mission's to the moon to creating the air bag landing systems for the recent Mars rover's Spirit and Opportunity, the later of which is scheduled to land on the opposite side of Mars this weekend. I as well as the 400 employees at ILC will be watching closely as the company's technology delivers Opportunity safely to the surface of Mars.

As NASA's vision continues to change over time, ILC Dover has adapted their technologies to meet the challenges of these new missions. ILC's landing bags work much like your everyday passenger air bag in a car. The system surrounded and protected the rover Spirit as it bounced 30 times before resting on the surface of Mars. These unmanned probes will scour the red planet's surface in an effort to discover any previous existence of life. These air bag systems were enhanced from those that ILC made for the earlier Pathfinder mission to Mars.

ILC is very excited by the President's recent announcement that he plans to send Americans to Mars by establishing a permanent space station on the moon. ILC Dover has already begun testing their newest space suit, the "I-suit", which could be worn by those astronauts who will build the moon base. ILC has stated that they expect these suits would perform better, would cost less, and would be more comfortable, allowing crewmembers to perform their duties for longer periods of time.

The company also manufactures products to meet the emerging homeland security, defense, and environmental challenges that our country faces. For example, they have begun production and sales of the Scape hood, a mask that protects civilian wearers from nuclear, biological and chemical warfare agents. The company currently manufactures the M40 gas masks donned by the U.S. Army. The federal government, state and local municipalities, and the corporate community have invested in their Vapor Guard product. These soft material covers are designed to contain odors and emissions within wastewater treatment tanks. These are just a few of the emerging technologies that the company is focused on.

As part of the successful Mars Exploration Rover program, I would also like to acknowledge the important work of Alliant Tech Systems Inc. (ATK). ATK, based in Edina, Minnesota, is a \$2.2 billion aerospace and defense company with strong positions in propulsion, composite structures, munitions, precision capabilities and civil and sporting ammunition. I will be touring their Elkton, Maryland, facility and will see first hand how ATK is partnering with NASA.

The Elkton facility, which employs close to 100 Delawareans, is working on NASA's Mars Exploration Rover as well, the orbital space plane and other NASA missions. Specifically, ATK constructed the gas generators that inflated ILC Dover's airbags to cushion the rover's landings, as well as the rocket motors that slowed their decent.

Besides their NASA work, ATK is also partnering with the Department of Defense to create Kinetic Energy Interceptor missile defense programs and is also part of a Department of Homeland Security team with United Air Lines that has been tasked to submit designs for an electro optic missile warning systems for commercial airplanes.

These forward thinking companies continue to assert themselves as major players in our nation's research and development, especially our search of the next frontier. I congratulate them on their achievements and wish them continued success.