

Upon his appointment as Secretary of the Interior by President John F. Kennedy, Stewart Udall exhibited the visionary leadership that preserved the natural and cultural heritage of Point Reyes National Seashore as well as other important seashores and lakeshores in the National Park System. He declared that "few areas in government leave a more abiding and visible mark on our land and our individual future than what is done or not done by the Department of Interior. Our success will be measured by the scars of neglect that are removed and the creative programs we realize in improving this great land of ours."

As an Arizona native, Secretary Udall brought to the Kennedy and Johnson administrations a unique understanding of the value of the ecosystems of the western United States. His Cabinet career resulted in The Wilderness Bill, The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and the creation of four new national parks, six national monuments, eight seashores and lakeshores, nine recreation areas, twenty historic sites, and 56 wildlife refuges.

Continuing his exploration of Western issues, Secretary Udall has documented the history of much of the region in several books, most recently, *The Forgotten Founders: Rethinking the History of the Old West*. This book brings to life the stories of actual people who settled the land, dispelling the myth of the predominance of handsome, six-gun-toting cowboys.

Mr. Speaker, Stewart Udall's vision, dedication, and leadership exemplify the best in public service. In his own words, "In the long run the best politics is a job well done."

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF NEIL KENNETH BURRASTON

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2004

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the life and legacy of Mr. Neil Burraston, a Principal Consultant in the California State Legislature who recently passed away.

For more than 30 years, Burraston helped advance the political careers of countless California legislators by providing them with invaluable advice and unmatched policymaking expertise. More importantly, the numerous policies he helped draft on workers compensation, have improved the lives of millions of working families in California.

After a stellar administrative career in the New York State Legislature, Neil began his career with the California State Legislature in 1972 as an Administrative Analyst in both the Legislative Analyst's Office and the Joint Legislative Budget Committee. His mastery of state government policy-making was recognized by his colleagues in 1984, when he was promoted to Senior Consultant for the Senate Committee on Industrial Relations and later to Principal Consultant in 1993. When I was Chair of the Senate Industrial Relations Committee in the late 1990s, Burraston's expertise and advice helped me to make informed decisions about issues before the committee.

A near-fatal illness provided Burraston with renewed insight into the value and purpose of

life and the impact one can have on others outside the family. As an active member in his community, he advocated to end alcohol abuse among families and vulnerable children. As President of the National Council on Alcoholism, he helped organize the National Association of Adult Children of Alcoholics and sponsored youth support groups for young people who wished to live a life free of alcohol abuse.

Born in Payson, Utah on 1938, Burraston earned his bachelor's and master's degree in political studies from Brigham Young University. A devout Mormon and an active member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Burraston suffered a heart attack while serving on a Latter-day Saint mission and died on February 28, 2004, in San Antonio, Texas. He leaves behind his loving wife, Amanda, five children, 16 grandchildren and two siblings.

Neil Burraston will always be known for his contributions to the State of California, its Legislature, and its people. His work will always be a model for other consultants and legislators to learn and emulate. Although we will miss Neil dearly, his life and legacy will live in our hearts forever.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MIKE BLOSS

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a sad heart that I rise to pay tribute to the passing of a selfless servant from my district. Mike Bloss, a native of Winter Park, Colorado, was recently killed while serving our country in Iraq as a contract security specialist. A beloved figure in his community, Mike dedicated his efforts to teaching students with disabilities how to ski and mountain bike. As his family and community mourn his passing, I believe it appropriate to bring his contributions to his community, state, and country to the attention of this body of Congress and this nation.

Mike was a retired Welsh special forces officer who began as a volunteer at the National Sports Center for the Disabled in Winter Park. As he gained more experience through various instruction certification programs, he turned the volunteering opportunity into a seasonal job. Mike was a fond employee of the organization who demonstrated great understanding for the needs of skiers with disabilities, having suffered a foot injury himself from a fall he took while he was in the military. As an additional source of income and for the chance of an adventure, Mike took on contract jobs with a Virginia firm that specialized in high-risk private security.

Mr. Speaker, Mike Bloss was a dedicated man who selflessly served his community and country, and I am honored to recognize his sacrifice before this body of Congress and this nation. His lifetime of service is an incredible model for America's youth. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family during this difficult time of bereavement.

IN RECOGNITION OF MICHAEL BESCHLOSS, 2004 RECIPIENT OF THE HARRY S TRUMAN AWARD FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2004

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of Michael R. Beschloss, who is receiving the 2004 Harry S Truman Award for Public Service from the City of Independence at the Truman Presidential Museum and Library on May 7, 2004. After President Truman's death on December 26, 1972, the City of Independence established this award to honor an outstanding individual who possesses the qualities of Harry S Truman. Since 1974, the annual award has honored individuals who have demonstrated "dedication, industry, ability, honesty and integrity" in their significant contributions to our country.

This year's recipient is the award winning historian and highly acclaimed author, Michael Beschloss. Last year, Beschloss generously agreed to be the keynote speaker for the Truman Presidential Library and Museum "Wild About Harry" fundraiser. Mr. Beschloss received rave reviews, as he captivated the audience with his humor and knowledge of presidential history. In his presentation, Mr. Beschloss said, "There is library so much on the cutting edge of what a library should do than the Truman Library." Mr. Beschloss's participation was the laudable attraction that generated the funds to ensure the expansion of educational programs and exhibits at the Truman Library. With seven books to his credit, Newsweek has called him "the nation's leading Presidential historian," and he has found a number of venues to pursue his career. As a respected author, essayist, editor, and television commentator, he continually lends an insightful eye to his informative and authoritative commentary and analysis of current and historic events in American culture. Beschloss has taken us behind the scenes in his research of many of the presidents since Roosevelt.

Like President Harry S Truman, Michael Beschloss found common ground in the belief that men are driven by history. President Truman stated, "It takes men to make history, or there would be no history. History does not make the man." Michael Beschloss has traditionally examined the inner workings of the presidency and political events throughout his publications and media appearances. His research has led him to explore presidential decision making and pinpoint administrative paradigm shifts in his analysis of new directions and he has explained their impact on domestic and foreign affairs.

President Truman said, "My debt to history is one which cannot be calculated. I know of no other motivation which so accounts for my awakening interest as a young lad in the principles of leadership and government." Michael Beschloss has examined the principles and actions of our nation's leaders and his writing is distinguished with analysis and illumination of the political process. For the past twenty years, he has articulated the deeper layers of thought and action that color the American political process, and he has earned the status as one of the most trusted experts on Presidents and the election process.

It was Mr. Beschloss's senior honors thesis at Williams College that launched his writing career. The writing project evolved into his first book, *Kennedy and Roosevelt: The Uneasy Alliance*, published in 1980. *May Day: Eisenhower, Khrushchev and the U-2 Affair* followed in 1986. *The Crisis Years: Kennedy and Khrushchev, 1960-1963*, published in 1991, won the Ambassador Book Prize. In 1993, Mr. Beschloss co-wrote *At the Highest Levels: The Inside Story of the End of the Cold War*. He has written two volumes of a trilogy on the Lyndon B. Johnson presidency, published in 1997 and 2001: *Taking Charge and Reaching for Glory*. Both are based on President Johnson's secret White House tapes and have been received with high praise. Research at the Truman Presidential Museum and Library provided material for his seventh book, a best seller, *The Conquerors: Roosevelt, Truman and the Destruction of Hitler's Germany, 1941-1945*. His insights into the influences on presidential staff debates throughout the war, including what to do with Germany at war's end, have received critical acclaim.

In addition to his best selling book career, Michael Beschloss is a trustee of the White House Historical Association, the National Archives Foundation, the Thomas Jefferson Foundation, the Urban Institute, and the University of Virginia's Miller Center of Public Affairs. He has cultivated his talent and expertise through his experiences at Williams College and Harvard University, his service on the staff of the Smithsonian from 1982-1986, as a Senior Associate at Oxford University, 1986-87, and as a Senior Fellow at the Annenberg Foundation, 1988-96. Mr. Beschloss can be seen on PBS's *The News Hour* and is a consultant to ABC News.

It is with great pleasure that I congratulate Michael Beschloss on his distinguished career and his many contributions to greater understanding of American culture through his research and analysis. I am proud that the City of Independence has selected him for recognition this year. He is most deserving of this honor. He shares President Truman's belief that an understanding of history is essential to leadership in world affairs. Mr. Speaker, please join me in warm congratulations to Michael R. Beschloss, this year's recipient of the 2004 Harry S Truman Award for Public Service, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the evaluation and preservation of history. I applaud his contribution to the Truman Library and Museum and to our world.

REGARDING CO-SPONSORSHIP OF
H.R. 4061

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2004

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in regards to H.R. 4061, the Assistance for Orphans and Vulnerable Children Act of 2004, which passed the House International Relations Committee by unanimous consent on March 31st.

Last night the International Relations Committee filed House Report 108-479.

Because House rules prohibit the addition of additional co-sponsors to a bill once the committee report has been filed, I was not able to

formally add seven Members of Congress as co-sponsors of this legislation.

I ask that the RECORD show that Mr. INSLEE of Washington, Mr. SOUDER of Indiana, Mr. OSBORNE of Nebraska, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. MAJETTE of Georgia, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, and Mr. HUNTER of California are in support of my bill and should be considered by this body as cosponsors of H.R. 4061.

CONGRATULATING CHRIS MAZZINO AS TEACHER OF THE YEAR

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2004

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor teacher Chris Mazzino as he is awarded the Milken Family Foundation's National Educator Award.

I ask that my colleagues pay tribute to this English teacher from West Scranton High School as he receives this tremendous recognition from the Milken Foundation during Teacher Appreciation Week.

Teachers are our nation's unsung heroes. The number of young lives touched by teachers is countless, and Mr. Mazzino exemplifies the best in his profession by encouraging his students to achieve far beyond the reach of what they thought possible. Mr. Mazzino's creative writing class published a book entitled "26 Odd: Creative Works by Creative Writers."

In addition, Mr. Mazzino diligently works with students throughout the entire school to help increase their scores on Pennsylvania's state accountability test. As a result of Mr. Mazzino's efforts, West Scranton High School's reading and writing test scores have improved significantly.

Mr. Mazzino also demonstrated his dedication by revamping the entire summer reading program at the West Scranton. I am proud to recognize the fact that Mr. Mazzino is the 37th teacher from our state to receive this award.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor and a privilege to represent a teacher who has dedicated his life to today's young people, who will indeed have a brighter future because of Mr. Mazzino.

RECOGNITION OF GARY WESTON

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 2004

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Gary Weston, who was recently killed in Kosovo.

Gary Weston was an employee of DynCorp International, which was serving with the United Nations as international police officers. Gary and other members were fired upon by a Jordanian police officer for unknown reason. Two fellow workers were killed in the resulting firefight. Gary was flown to a hospital after receiving several gunshots. He later died from complications of the gunshot wounds, his wife Nina Weston was there by her husband's side.

Gary Weston was 52 years old and lived in Vienna, Illinois. Not enough can be said about the great sacrifice this man made for his coun-

try, the ultimate sacrifice. He is survived by wife, Nina Weston; his mother, Christine Weston of Metropolis; a son, Richard N. Weston of Granite City; two daughters, Rachel A. Weston of Honolulu, Hawaii and Elizabeth E. Weston of Vienna; five grandchildren, Trey, Derek, Heather, Dalton and Parker; two brothers, Ben and wife Jan Weston of Vienna and Ed and wife Susan Weston of Cape Girardeau; a sister, Melinda and husband Ron White of Austin, Texas; and his mother-in-law, Marilyn Whiteside of Vienna. My thoughts and prayers go out to his families and loved ones. Gary Weston gave his life in an effort to improve the lives of others. This sacrifice should never be forgotten.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF INCREASING AWARENESS OF AUTISM

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 5, 2004

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution that will raise awareness of autism, one of the most mysterious, and challenging mental conditions that affects the American people. Autism affects 1 in 166 children today, and is thus the third most common developmental disability. Autism comes in a wide spectrum of intensities, ranging from mild personality quirks, to profound communication difficulties, to self-destructive behaviors, to utter dependence on care-givers.

This nation spends \$90 million per year caring for people with autism. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have estimated that as many as 1.5 million Americans have some form of autism, and the prevalence is skyrocketing. Based on statistics from the U.S. Department of Education and other government agencies, autism is growing at a rate of 10-17 percent per year. At these rates, the prevalence of autism in our country alone could reach 4 million in the next decade.

The cost of specialized treatment in a developmental center for people with autism is approximately \$80,000 per individual per year. The cost of special education programs for school-aged children with autism is often more than \$30,000 per individual per year. But the greatest burden of caring for the autistic falls on families of those with autism.

It is hard to even imagine what it would be like to be autistic or to care for an autistic family member. To give a bit of insight, I would like to share a personal story of one of my staff members, who has a 26-year-old autistic daughter named "Amy." Despite the fact that Amy is an adult, she is not able to use language to communicate her needs. She cannot communicate even simple messages such as that she has a stomach ache or that her room is too cold, and she gets extremely upset when she needs to communicate and is not able to do it.

This staffer shared a story that he said would probably sound familiar to any person who has lived with autistic individuals. Amy woke my staffer and his wife in the middle of the night one night with screams of rage and frustration. When they rushed into her bedroom, she took them to her bedroom window