

IN RECOGNITION OF KYLE RICHARD KELSON UPON ACHIEVEMENT OF EAGLE SCOUT COURT OF HONOR

**HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 2, 2005*

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my constituent Kyle Richard Kelson of Eagle Scout troop #204 in Lafayette, California, as he receives the distinguished honor of the Eagle Scout rank.

The honor of Eagle Scout is given only to those young men who have demonstrated that they have fulfilled its rigorous requirements, including living by the Scout Oath and Law, rising through the Boy Scout ranks, earning 21 merit badges, serving as a leader, and planning and leading a service project for their community. This is not an honor given out lightly: this young man is becoming an Eagle Scout because he is intelligent, dedicated, and principled.

I am proud to call Kyle Richard Kelson my constituent, for he is a shining example of the promise of the next generation. Indeed, he represents the best of the young people in our country. I extend my sincere congratulations to him and his family, on this momentous occasion.

INTRODUCTION OF FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION ACT OF 2005

**HON. RICK BOUCHER**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 2, 2005*

Mr. BOUCHER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to join with my colleague from Indiana, Mr. PENCE, in introducing the Free Flow of Information Act, legislation which will advance the public's right of access to information of broad public interest.

Our measure addresses an increasingly common problem. Last year, 12 reporters were threatened with jail sentences in federal courts for refusing to reveal confidential news sources. Reporters rely on the ability to assure confidentiality to sources in order to deliver news to the public. The ability of news reporters to assure confidentiality to sources is fundamental to their ability to deliver news on highly contentious matters of broad public interest. Without the promise of confidentiality, many sources would not provide information to reporters, and the public would suffer from the resulting lack of information.

Thirty-one states and Washington, DC, currently have statutes protecting reporters from compelled disclosure of sources of information. It is time to provide similar protections in the federal courts.

I have long believed that the Freedom of the Press provision of the first amendment should be interpreted by the courts to empower reporters to refrain from revealing their sources. Since the courts have not found this privilege to attend the first amendment, a statutory grant of the privilege has become necessary.

In deciding to introduce this measure, I have concluded that the public's right to know should outweigh the more narrow interest in

the administration of justice in a particular federal case. In fact, in many instances the critical information which first alerts federal prosecutors to conduct justifying a criminal proceeding or first alerts civil litigants to facts giving rise to a private cause of action is contained in a news story which could only have been reported upon assurance of anonymity to the news source.

I commend my colleague Mr. PENCE for his leadership on this measure and look forward to working with him to obtain rapid approval of the bill in the House.

ON THE DEATH OF LONGSHOREMAN MATT PETRASICH

**HON. JANE HARMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 2, 2005*

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, a tragedy occurred Monday at the Port of Los Angeles when longshoreman Matt Petrasich—a 40-year veteran of the docks—was killed as he supervised workers unloading cargo from a ship. The entire port community is stunned by this unexpected loss.

Mr. Petrasich was something of a Pied Piper at the port, a hatch boss beloved by younger workers who vied to work on his shifts and respected by his peers for his years of hard work, sparkling sense of humor and big heart. Just ask Danny Miranda, president of ILWU Local 94, who said, "Everybody on this waterfront is grieving. He was loved by a lot of people. . . . He was the life of the party. Just a wonderful person."

Work on the waterfront is often fraught with danger. The men and women who toil on the docks know the risks better than anyone else. But their around-the-clock contribution keeps Americans in work, business inventories full and our seaports more secure.

As best we understand the fatal accident, Mr. Petrasich was crushed by a container about 9:30 in the morning as he worked aboard the Panamanian-flagged Ever Deluxe ship. It was a crane operator who first spotted his body and notified port authorities.

It was also a crane operator, John Rivera of ILWU Local 13, who 3 weeks ago, on a Saturday night, noticed something strange. While moving cargo off a ship, he spotted from his perch high above the docks three people crawling out of a hole in the side of a container. Port inspectors opened the container and found inside 28 men and 4 male teenagers from China—illegal stowaways who had hidden themselves 10 days earlier at the Chinese port city of Shekou. The container manifest listed the contents simply as "clothing."

Mr. Speaker, in an era of terrorism and WMD proliferation, the threats against America emanate from the shadows, from underground black markets, from sleeper cells, and even from cargo containers in the Port of Los Angeles innocently labeled "clothing."

If not for Mr. Rivera, that container would almost certainly have made its way past port inspectors and into Greater Los Angeles. That cargo could have been a 32-man terrorist cell—13 more than the 19 terrorists who attacked us on 9/11. As ILWU Local 13 president Dave Arian rightly notes, "We are the eyes and ears of the port."

So as we mourn the sudden and shocking loss of Matt Petrasich, we should also celebrate the vigilance and dedication of the men and women who work day and night at the port—the supervisors, the crane operators, the shift workers and, of course, hatch bosses like Matt.

I offer my deepest condolences to Cathe Bjazevich Petrasich, his wife of 24 years, and to his family, his friends and co-workers. The Port of Los Angeles has lost a special man.

IN RECOGNITION OF LAZAR AND FRANCIA PIRO

**HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 2, 2005*

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, it is with the greatest pleasure that I rise today to honor Lazar and Francia Piro on the occasion of their 40th Wedding Anniversary.

Lazar Piro and Francia Yacou met in Beirut, Lebanon in the early 1960's and married soon after on January 31, 1965. They began a family in 1966 with the birth of their daughter Caroline. Their family quickly grew with the births of their two sons, George in 1967, and Serj in 1968. Ten years later, in July 1979, the Piros left Lebanon for Turlock, California where Lazar's brother and Francia's sisters resided. Shortly after arriving in the United States, the family moved again as Lazar took a job with a dental company in Des Moines, Iowa in 1980. The family resided in Iowa until 1985, at which time Lazar decided to start his own business and return to California. Twenty years later, Piro Trading International remains a thriving family business in Stanislaus County.

In addition to creating and maintaining a successful family business, Lazar and Francia raised three successful children. All three of their children obtained college educations, each having attended California State University, Stanislaus. Caroline, who now works with her father in the family business, currently resides in Turlock with her husband Sam and their 12-year-old son George. Serj also resides in Turlock, where he is a Territory Manager for a pharmaceutical company. George, a FBI agent, now lives in Herndon, Virginia with his wife Mona and their two sons Lazar, 12 and Marcus, 9.

Throughout the years, the Piros have been admired for their strong relationship, and respected for their commitment to the community. Francia has dedicated her life to her husband and family, as a devoted wife and mother of three. With her support and companionship, Lazar remains deeply involved in the community. Since settling down in Turlock, he has dedicated himself to the Assyrian community having founded an organization aimed at providing aid to those in need. He currently participates in many committees and boards throughout the County, including the Assyrian National Council of Stanislaus County.

It is my honor and privilege to join Lazar and Francia's family and friends in recognizing the very special and momentous occasion of their 40th Wedding Anniversary. Our community benefits greatly from the splendid example they have set. Marriages such as theirs form a sound foundation for our country, and contribute greatly toward making this a better

world in which we live. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in offering Mr. and Mrs. Lazar and Francia Piro best wishes for continued happiness.

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INTRODUCTION OF THE WIND CAVE NATIONAL PARK BOUNDARY REVISION ACT OF 2005

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**HON. STEPHANIE HERSETH**

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 2, 2005

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Wind Cave National Park Boundary Revision Act of 2005.

South Dakota's Wind Cave National Park was one of our nation's first national parks and is one of the jewels in our national park system. President Theodore Roosevelt signed the legislation creating Wind Cave National Park on January 9, 1903. With that act, Wind Cave became the first cave in the world to be designated as a national park.

The cave itself, after which the park is named, is one of the world's oldest, longest and most complex cave systems, with more than 114 miles of mapped tunnels. To this day, cave enthusiasts continue to explore the cave and map new passages. In fact, Wind Cave has very recently become recognized as the fifth-longest cave in the world. It is well known for its exceptional display of boxwork, a rare, honeycomb-shaped formation that protrudes from the cave's ceilings and walls.

While the cave is the focal point of the park, the land above the cave is equally impressive, with more than 28,000 acres of grasslands, forests, and streams. The park is one of the few remaining mixed-grass prairie ecosystems in the country, and is a National Game Preserve that provides a home for abundant wildlife such as bison, deer, elk and birds.

The Wind Cave National Park Boundary Revision Act will help expand the park by approximately 20 percent in the southern "key-hole" region. The current landowners are willing sellers that would like to see it protected from development and preserved for future generations. The land is a natural extension of the park, and boasts the mixed-grass prairie and ponderosa pine forests, including a dramatic river canyon. The addition of this land will enhance recreation for hikers who come for the solitude of the park's back country. It will also protect archaeological sites, such as a dramatic buffalo jump, over which early Native Americans once drove the bison they hunted.

This plan to expand the park has strong support in the surrounding community. Most South Dakotans recognize the value in expanding the park, not only to encourage additional tourism in the Black Hills, but to permanently protect these extraordinary lands for future generations of Americans to enjoy.

Governor Michael Rounds has expressed his support for the park expansion and both Senators in South Dakota's delegation, TIM JOHNSON and JOHN THUNE, are introducing companion legislation in the Senate to expand the park boundaries.

I believe that this expansion can be achieved without a reduction in the acreage accessible to the public for hunting, and without a loss of tax revenue to county govern-

ments. Also, I would look to the National Parks Service to tackle issues like chronic wasting disease and deal with them effectively. These are reasonable concerns that should be met as this process moves forward.

Wind Cave National Park has been a valued American treasure for more than 100 years. We have an opportunity with this legislation to expand the park and enhance its value to the public so that visitors will enjoy it forever. It is my hope that my colleagues will support this expansion of the park and pass this legislation in the near future..

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INTRODUCTION OF MAGLITE PATENT EXTENSION

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**HON. JOE BACA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 2, 2005

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, while many manufacturers have been cutting costs by relocating overseas or contracting to foreign companies, one small flashlight manufacturer has decided to stay put in the U.S.A.

Right now that company is in danger and needs our help.

Mag Instrument, maker of the Maglite flashlight, filed for a reissue patent in 1990 but was not approved until 2003—13 years later. The delay in that 2-year extension led to countless foreign manufacturers copying the design, flooding foreign markets with their knock-offs ever since.

The Maglite patent expires this year. If we let that happen we can expect a flood of knock-offs here in the U.S.A., jeopardizing 900 American jobs and a great American product.

Today, I am proud to introduce legislation to extend the patent for the Maglite flashlight for an additional 2 years.

The Maglite flashlight is not some fancy medicine or artificial heart, but nonetheless represents American innovation and the ability of one man to turn a great idea into "the American dream."

The Maglite is a beloved tool of police officers, firefighters, and E.M.T.'s nationwide. Military units often replace their service issue flashlights with Maglites. Engineers at the USS *Cole* credited this flashlight with helping them to save lives and to keep the ship from sinking.

That is why I am proud to introduce this legislation today along with 10 of my colleagues, and the support of the National Association of Police Organizations, its 52 affiliates and my hometown police organization, the San Bernardino County Safety Employees' Association.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me by cosponsoring this bill. We need to make sure our police officers and first responders have this nearly indestructible American-made steel flashlight instead of a fragile foreign knock-off flashlight made of aluminum or plastic.

We need to keep the seal "Made in the U.S.A." on this great all-American flashlight.

ON BEHALF OF DR. CHARLES HAMILTON

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**HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 2, 2005

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today and recognize the achievements and accomplishments of a great and beloved physician from Lafayette, Louisiana. Dr. Charles Hamilton passed away on Friday, October 22, 2004 after a battle with cancer of the esophagus. On his retirement, Dr. Hamilton was asked, "What are the most memorable events of your medical career?" His response was simple, "Practicing in Lafayette."

From 1954 to 1988, Dr. Hamilton practiced pediatrics as a partner in the Hamilton Medical Group. Dr. Hamilton worked as a physician field representative for the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Healthcare Organization from 1989 to his retirement in 2003. Dr. Hamilton's special interest remained in the delivery of high quality medical care and it is toward that end that he pursued further education and practice in the field of healthcare administration. Dr. Hamilton was acutely aware of the treatment of children because he was the parent of a chronically ill child. His son, Charles Hamilton, was born with the blood-clotting disorder, Hemophilia.

Dr. Hamilton was special for many reasons but one reason was his embrace and protection of the hemophilia community. Dr. Hamilton developed a reputation for his diligence, sensitivity, and resourcefulness in treating children with hemophilia; these characteristics are often missing in hemophilia treatment. In fact, one single parent brought her son with hemophilia to see him after moving to Lafayette. Dr. Hamilton later married that single mother, Janice Hamilton and adopted her young son, Charles. In a community where fathers often abandon children with hemophilia, or otherwise are not involved with treatment, Dr. Hamilton embraced a family with this dreaded disorder. Sadly, Dr. and Mrs. Hamilton lost their son Charles in 1979 due to complications from a bleed.

Because of their son's illness and untimely death, Dr. Hamilton worked side by side with his wife in her determination to improve the quality of life for people with hemophilia and their families in the United States. For their efforts Dr. and Mrs. Hamilton were given the inaugural Charles Stanley Hamilton Legacy Award for Lifetime Achievement from the Hemophilia Federation of America.

Dr. Hamilton served numerous local, state and national organizations because community service was an important aspect of his overall beliefs. Dr. Hamilton worked with the Louisiana Epilepsy Association, Louisiana Chapter of the National Hemophilia Foundation, which he served as President, the National Hemophilia Foundation, and the Hemophilia Federation of America. His wife, Janice Hamilton, and three surviving children and 5 grandchildren survive Dr. Hamilton. Louisiana has lost a great public servant with no equal.