

the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service would have only 180 days to review proposed developments and their impact on endangered species. If an assessment cannot be reached within this time frame, the project is allowed to proceed. If it is determined that endangered species would be harmed by the project, the Federal Government must pay the landowner the value of the proposed development. This would encourage speculative development schemes aimed at harming endangered species in order to receive windfall payments from the government. A frenzy of fraud and abuse will not help responsible landowners comply with the law, and it will not help species recover.

The use of sound science is also undermined by this bill. It gives political appointees the authority to determine the "best available science" without having to consult with recognized scientists and other experts in the field. Under this bill, the use of sophisticated scientific modeling could also be banned. This opens the door to the use of questionable science and politically-motivated findings.

This bill also repeals all Endangered Species Act provisions related to pesticides. Pesticides, such as DOT, have contributed to the decline of many species, including the American bald eagle. Under this bill, the Environmental Protection Agency can approve pesticides without considering their impact on threatened and endangered species. Given the choice between recovery and extinction, this bill appears to favor extinction.

I supported a responsible alternative aimed at recovering species. The Miller/Boehlert substitute amendment contained a more flexible timeline for consideration of projects, clarified the obligation of federal agencies, and provided real landowner incentives for conservation and species recovery. This approach responded to the legitimate concerns of landowners and sportsmen while continuing efforts to recover endangered species. Unfortunately, this amendment was not adopted.

Mr. Speaker, the Threatened and Endangered Species Recovery Act fails to protect vulnerable wildlife and plants and threatens to break the federal bank with a new open-ended entitlement for developers. I urge my colleagues to reject this bill and work together to create a strong, scientific and bipartisan Endangered Species Act.

SALUTING SERGEANT HECTOR R.
FELICIANO

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute and pay tribute to Sergeant Hector R. Feliciano, a 22-year veteran of the Los Angeles Police Department. Sergeant Feliciano is receiving an honorable mention commendation for the annual TOP COPS Award Ceremony, from the National Association of Police Officers. This is a great honor, and reflects the substantial respect and recognition accorded to Sergeant Feliciano by California and national law enforcement. Sergeant Feliciano represents the very best of our outstanding law enforcement officers, previously being selected as Rampart Sergeant of the year 2004, for distinguishing

himself as an exemplary leader as well as a tactical expert.

Among his many achievements include developing game plans that targeted narcotics violators who utilized the Mac Arthur Park as a base of operations. He also planned operations to address quality of life issues in and around the park. His operations focused on such concerns as drinking in public, illegal street sales, and gambling. He was also tasked with developing and writing operations plans for special events in and around the park. According to superiors, his operations plans were outstanding, covering all aspects of the event from manpower to street closures to tactical considerations. The reduction in crime and improvement in the quality of life in and around the park has been remarkable. The efforts of Sergeant Feliciano, as well as those officers he supervises, has been the topic of crime strategy seminars throughout the Los Angeles Police Department.

Hector is a highly sought after and well-respected supervisor. Even under great pressure, he has repeatedly proven that his is steadfast and levelheaded. Hector has stepped forward to take command in many situations, thus ensuring the welfare of his officers and the citizens of Los Angeles. A notable example of this occurred on November 9, 2004. Sergeant Feliciano employed decisive and heroic actions during a hostage crisis at the Mexican Consulate. His lifesaving intervention resulted in the successful rescue of a pregnant female who was being held hostage by a gunman.

Mr. Speaker, Hector Feliciano has served our community with great distinction. As a husband, father, and grandparent, I feel secure knowing the safety of my loved ones is entrusted to such a fine individual. An officer's work is never done, and because of that, our families are secure.

And so, we thank Hector, with gratitude and respect for his distinguished service. We wish the very best to him, and his wife, Jeanette, and their other family members who are here this month in Washington, DC. God bless, and congratulations on this great honor.

HONORING JUDGE HORACE
WHEATLEY

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and achievements of Alameda County Superior Court Judge Horace Wheatley of Oakland, California. Serving Alameda County on the bench for almost 25 years, Judge Wheatley has been known throughout his career for his unflinching sense of social justice, and for his unwavering commitment to our young people. Today our community comes together to celebrate his career and achievements on the occasion of his retirement in Oakland, California.

Judge Wheatley was born in Lake Charles, Louisiana, and raised in San Francisco's historic Fillmore district. After graduating from the "old" Lowell High School in 1957, he went to College of the Pacific, now known as University of the Pacific, later transferring to Howard University in Washington, DC, where he con-

tinued his record as a champion debater. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 had not yet been enacted during his time in college, making some of the challenges he faced in school extend far beyond the realm of academics. When he competed in the National Collegiate Debate Tournament at the University of Oklahoma in 1961, the open and unabated racial discrimination that prevailed in some parts of the country was so severe that the southern colleges who were competing were instructed to walk out of any round in which an African American was competing. Undeterred, Judge Wheatley went on not only to win the tournament, but to be awarded the Pi Kappa Delta gold debate key for his outstanding performance. Following his studies at Howard, Judge Wheatley returned to the University of the Pacific in 1960, where he graduated with a degree in Sociology and Psychology.

Following a successful law school career at Willamette University in Oregon, where he won the school's Moot Court Competition and served as a teaching assistant before earning his Doctor of Jurisprudence degree, Judge Wheatley began serving as Deputy Attorney General for the State of California in 1965. He later went into private practice in Oakland, where he engaged in general litigation practice and was one of the lead attorneys in a precedent-setting class-action lawsuit against the savings and loan industry. In 1972, he became General Counsel for the California Teachers Association, representing the organization's 300,000 members in several noteworthy cases which resulted in precedent-setting rulings in favor of public school teachers' rights and benefits.

Judge Wheatley was appointed as a Judge of the Alameda County Municipal Court on July 1, 1981, by California Governor Edmond G. "Jerry" Brown, Jr., and was elevated to the Alameda County Superior Court when all of the courts in Alameda County were unified in 1998. Known for his tendency to give many young defendants the choice to "Go to school or go to jail," Judge Wheatley's career on the bench has been marked by his steadfast commitment to serving the young people in our community who are most in need of guidance.

Judge Wheatley's outstanding dedication and accomplishments have not only impacted countless young lives, but have also been recognized by a number of the professional organizations of which he is a member. He has not only been inducted into the Charles Houston Bar Association's Hall of Fame, but has also received its "Judicial Excellence Award." In addition, he received the Bernard S. Jefferson Award from the California Association of Black Lawyers as its Judge of the Year in 2001, and has also been named the Lend-A-Hand Foundation's "Man of the Year." This past August, he was inducted into the National Bar Association's Hall of Fame in recognition of having practiced law for over 40 years and made significant contributions to the cause of justice. In addition, he was also given the A. Leon Higginbotham Memorial Award by the Young Lawyers Division of the National Bar Association in recognition of his intellectual accomplishments, professional achievements and community contributions.

Today Judge Wheatley's family, friends and colleagues come together to celebrate the impact of his life and work not only on the innumerable lives, particularly young lives, he has touched here in Alameda County, but the lasting effects his rulings and his commitment to

true justice have had and will continue to have on our legal system. On behalf of the 9th Congressional District of California, I salute and thank Judge Horace Wheatley for his invaluable contributions to the people of Alameda County, the 9th Congressional District, the State of California and our entire country.

CONGRATULATING NEW NMA
PRESIDENT DR. SANDRA L.
GADSON

HON. JESSE L. JACKSON, JR.

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to recognize and congratulate one of my constituents and the 106th president of The National Medical Association, Dr. Sandra L. Gadson.

Founded in 1895, the National Medical Association, NMA, is the largest and oldest national organization representing African American physicians and their patients in the United States. The NMA represents the interests of more than 35,000 African American physicians and the patients they serve and is the leading force for parity and justice in medicine and the elimination of health disparities. Throughout its history, the National Medical Association has focused primarily on health issues related to African Americans and medically underserved populations, as well as all ethnic groups.

Many years ago, Dr. Gadson was herself a patient, facing a battle with colon cancer. In her own words, Dr. Gadson stated: "When my patients curse a rising wave of pain or struggle to give voice to their suffering, I understand because I've been there." This experience has not only influenced Dr. Gadson to be a more sensitive and empathetic doctor, but it inspired her to improve the quality of service available to patients everywhere.

While working in the Emergency Room at Methodist Hospital in Gary, Indiana, Dr. Gadson was shocked to learn that the predominately poor, African American city had a high prevalence of kidney failure but no dialysis center. She immediately took action and established the first freestanding dialysis center in northern Indiana.

In her acceptance speech, Dr. Gadson said that as president of NMA, she will work to increase its membership and mentorship, advocate for a national health plan of universal coverage, strengthen partnerships with churches and the media to promote health awareness, and to launch initiatives in kidney disease that encourage transplantation and organ donation. Dr. Gadson, a practicing nephrologist, also made note of the fact that African Americans make up 13 percent of the U.S. population but nearly one-third of all kidney patients. "The crisis of kidney failure in the African American community mirrors the dilemma of health care disparities," Dr. Gadson stated.

Dr. Gadson's contributions to the health community have been enumerable. As president of the NMA, she will continue to help decrease health disparities and increase access to high quality healthcare for all Americans. We are truly fortunate to have her as a part of our community, and I congratulate her on her achievement.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION
WITH GOVERNMENT REFORM TO
GIVE DC CITIZENS A PLACE IN
STATUARY HALL

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that Government Reform Committee Chair TOM DAVIS (R-VA) and House Administration Committee Ranking Member JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD (D-CA) are introducing a bill with me today to permit two statues honoring citizens of the District of Columbia in Statuary Hall of the Capitol, just as statues honoring citizens of States are placed in the historic hall. This legislation would allow the city to offer two statues to the Congress on behalf of DC residents. As I introduce this bill, as we have just honored the citizens of New Mexico, I ask the committee to remember that with the placement of their second statute, a bill I was pleased to support, I seek equal recognition for the citizens of the District of Columbia.

The District of Columbia was born with the Nation itself. The city has more than two centuries of its very own rich and uniquely American history. It goes without saying that the almost 650,000 American citizens who live in the Nation's Capital deserve the honor of having two of its history makers represented in the halls of the Nation's Capital just as citizens who live in the 50 States have long enjoyed.

Our bill would allow the Mayor and the City Council to devise the method for determining the identity of the honorees, who must be deceased. Mayor Anthony Williams has already agreed to find funds in the District's budget for these statues upon the passage of this legislation.

Every time we allow the District to be excluded from its place among the 50 States, we undermine the Nation's efforts to spread full democracy around the world. While DC residents have not yet obtained the same political equality and voting rights as the citizens of the States, they have all the responsibilities of the States, including paying all Federal taxes and serving in all wars. Today, when our residents are serving in Iraq, the least we should do is to give this city its rightful and equal place in the Capitol. Among our residents now serving their country, the District lost 44-year-old Lt. Col. Paul W. Kimbrough, an African American engineer who was supporting Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. I attended the funeral of 21-year-old Specialist Darryl Dent of the DC National Guard who was killed in Iraq. There are more than 100 soldiers still serving in Iraq from Specialist Dent's 547th Transportation Company.

This bill offers District residents the opportunity to enjoy the same pride that all other citizens experience when they come to their Capital—the opportunity to view memorials that commemorate the efforts of deceased local residents who have made significant contributions to American history.

REP. BARBARA LEE HONORED BY
THE 100 BLACK MEN OF SILICON
VALLEY

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Ms. LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, the California Democratic Congressional Delegation is proud to recognize the achievements of our colleague, Rep. Barbara Lee, upon the presentation of the Lifetime Achievement Award by the 100 Black Men of Silicon Valley.

The concept of the 100 Black Men was born in New York in 1963, when a group of concerned African American men gathered to explore ways of improving conditions in their community. These visionaries and industry leaders included David Dinkins, Jackie Robinson, Nathaniel Goldston III, Andrew Hatcher and founding President Dr. William Hayling.

The mission of the 100 Black Men of Silicon Valley is to improve the quality of life of our citizens and enhance educational opportunities for African Americans and minorities, through its chapters, in all communities—with a particular emphasis on young African American males. They do this by focusing on mentoring, education, health and wellness, and economic development.

It is fitting that Representative BARBARA LEE is being honored for her long record of standing for youth and family issues such as criminal justice reform as a member of the Public Safety, Sentencing and Incarceration Reform Caucus. Health and wellness has been at a priority for her in Congress as well. She has fought to establish a United States Health Service and provide health coverage for all Americans. The measure, first introduced in 1978 by her predecessor, Representative Ron Dellums, has been a priority for her since her election in 1998. Representative BARBARA LEE has also been committed to promoting economic development and supporting those who need it most, including working to secure investment in housing, transit systems, roads, clean water, and schools to stimulate the economy and create jobs.

We wish to thank the 100 Black Men for their tireless efforts to enhance the quality of life for all citizens, and to Representative BARBARA LEE for her deeply held commitment to the principle of human rights.

IN HONOR OF DON MILANESE,
VICE PRESIDENT OF LAS
POSITAS COLLEGE, ON THE OC-
CASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 7, 2005

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Don Milanese, vice president of Academic Services at Las Positas College in Livermore, who is retiring after 35 years of service to the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District, the Tri-Valley community, and thousands of students.

Don began his career in 1964 as a graduate teaching assistant at the University of California at Davis. Following a 2-year stint in the