

ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE
GWICH'IN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I sent the attached statement of support for the Gwich'in tribe on November 4, 2005.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC.

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR

A MORAL CHOICE FOR THE UNITED STATES: THE HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS FOR THE GWICH'IN PEOPLE OF DRILLING IN THE ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

The undersigned Members of Congress express their strong support for the Gwich'in people in their long-running battle to protect their culture and way of life by preventing oil and gas drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The report issued today by the Gwich'in Steering Committee, The Episcopal Church, and Professor Richard J. Wilson, Director of the Human Rights Law Clinic at American University, amply demonstrates that opening the Coastal Plain to drilling would violate the internationally recognized human rights of the Gwich'in to subsistence, to culture, to health, and to religion. The United States has a duty to safeguard these fundamental rights by protecting the Coastal Plain and its prime calving and post-calving grounds for the Porcupine Caribou Herd. The Porcupine Caribou Herd is central to the Gwich'in people's subsistence, culture, and entire way of life, and has been since time immemorial.

The report released today describes the nature of the close relationship between the Porcupine Caribou Herd and the Gwich'in people. According to Gwich'in elder, Jonathan Solomon, "It is our belief that the future of the Gwich'in and the future of the Caribou are the same." The report also draws from the body of scientific research to show that opening the Coastal Plain to oil drilling would displace calving caribou from the prime calving grounds of the Coastal Plain, inexorably driving down calf survival and the population of the herd. Finally, the report shows that the continuing decline of the herd's population or a major change in its migration pattern could make subsistence hunting more difficult for the Gwich'in people or force them to curtail their annual caribou harvest. By damaging the ability of the Gwich'in to rely on the Porcupine Caribou Herd for their physical and cultural needs as they have done for millennia, a decision to open the Coastal Plain to oil exploration and development would violate the human right of the Gwich'in under internationally recognized norms.

In light of the findings of this report and our moral obligation to protect the Gwich'in way of life, we urge our colleagues to reject any proposal to open the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas exploration and development.

Dennis J. Kucinich, Edward J. Markey, Barbara Lee, Raúl M. Grijalva, Dale E. Kildee, Donald M. Payne, Maurice D. Hinchey, James P. McGovern, Peter A. DeFazio, Lynn C. Woolsey, Bernie Sanders, Janice D. Schakowsky, Danny K. Davis, Jim McDermott, Sam Farr, John Conyers, Jr., Diane E. Watson, William Lacy Clay, Betty McCollum.

HONORING DR. PHILIP KESTEN,
2005 CALIFORNIA PROFESSOR OF
THE YEAR

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2005

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Dr. Philip Kesten, a professor from Santa Clara University, who was selected as the 2005 California Professor of the Year this week.

The United States Professors of the Year awards, sponsored by the Council for Advancement of Teaching and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, are the only national awards that recognize college and university professors for excellence in undergraduate teaching and mentoring. Dr. Kesten was one of 42 state winners to receive this honor.

After receiving his Bachelors degree in Physics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Dr. Kesten went on to earn both his Masters and Doctorate in Physics at the University of Michigan. It was here that Dr. Kesten began his career as one of the nation's top educators. As a teaching assistant and head varsity crew coach, Dr. Kesten discovered not only his passion for teaching and mentoring students, but his ability to do it well—he won a teaching award from the Department of Physics.

Dr. Kesten has since gone on to an outstanding career in academia. In addition to his teaching experiences at Michigan and MIT, Dr. Kesten has taught at Brandeis University and is currently an Associate Professor of Physics at Santa Clara University. He is also the current Chairman of the Physics Department and Director of the Ricard Memorial Observatory.

This is not the first time Dr. Kesten has been recognized for his teaching excellence. In 2000, he was awarded the David E. Logathetti Teaching Award from the Santa Clara University College of Arts and Sciences. Seven years prior, the same College of Arts and Sciences recognized Kesten with the Certificate for Exceptional Teaching, Advising, and Curriculum Development.

While his formal education and accolades noticeably highlight his remarkable career, his most honorable work is found in his dedication to the comprehensive development of the student. As the Director of the Residential Learning Communities Program and the Faculty Director of the da Vinci Residential Learning Community, Dr. Kesten has succeeded in integrating the social, residential, and academic facets of a college student's experience.

I deeply appreciate all that Dr. Philip Kesten has done to improve the lives of this nation's students and extend my congratulations to him as the 2005 California Professor of the Year.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT E. BUSH

HON. MARY BONO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2005

Mrs. BONO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to Robert E. Bush, a hero whose

selfless contributions to our Nation began with his service in the Navy Medical Corps during WWII and continued throughout his remarkable life. Sadly, Mr. Bush passed away on November 8, 2005 at the age of 79. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me today in saluting this outstanding American.

Mr. Bush was born in Tacoma in 1926. In 1943, he left high school to join the Navy Medical Corps. Within a year of enlistment, he participated in an assault on Okinawa, one of the longest and bloodiest conflicts in the Pacific Theatre.

While attending to his wounded comrades on the front lines of the battlefield, Mr. Bush's division came under attack. He unhesitatingly continued to administer aid to those in desperate need as enemy forces pressed forward with their counterattack. Despite his own dangerously exposed position, Mr. Bush refused to evacuate and remained to provide a seriously injured soldier with critical plasma. This heroic act resulted in serious wounds and ultimately cost Mr. Bush his own right eye as he was struck with multiple enemy hand grenades. When additional help finally came, Mr. Bush refused treatment until the wounded soldier had been safely evacuated.

At the age of 18, Robert Bush became the youngest sailor to ever receive the military's highest honor, the Medal of Honor. This honor was bestowed personally by President Harry S. Truman. With characteristic selflessness and humility, Mr. Bush refused to consider his own courage apart from those that he served with and considered himself a "custodian [of the Medal of Honor] for those who died." As his son Robert "Mick" Bush put it, "The Medal of Honor was a symbol of Bush's philosophy of putting others first." Throughout the remainder of his life he remained very active with the Congressional Medal of Honor Society where he rose to the rank of president.

In further recognition of Mr. Bush's courage, a naval hospital in Twentynine Palms, California was named in his honor—as was a stretch of U.S. 101 that goes through South Bend and a clinic at Camp Courtney on Okinawa. I am pleased to recognize these lasting tributes to Mr. Bush's self sacrifice in service to others.

Mr. Bush was preceded in death by his wife and high school sweetheart, the former Wanda Spooner, who passed away in 1999 and his son, Lawrence Bush. He is survived by three of his children; Susan Ehle, Robert M. Bush and Richard Bush, eight grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Mr. Bush will be remembered by his dear family and friends as not only a national hero, but most importantly a dedicated family man who rendered tireless service to those who had the opportunity to associate with him.

Mr. Speaker, I would once again like to pay tribute to this great American hero. His life was a testament to patriotism and courage and I am honored to speak on his behalf today. I encourage my colleagues to join me in recognizing and celebrating the life of Mr. Robert E. Bush.