

Award from the South Carolina Education Association. She was named Woman of the Year by her home Church Mt. Zion AME in 1987 and 1991. The Charleston Area Women's Missionary Society also chose Mrs. Simpson for their Outstanding Service Award.

Mrs. Simpson continues to make significant contributions to her community. She established the Harriet F. Simpson Scholarship Fund to help deserving students get a college education. She continues to support students while they are in college with financial help, letters of comfort, and small gifts, and helps them find jobs. She was a founding member of the Moja Arts Festival Committee, and has donated artifacts to the Avery Institute. Although she isn't a wealthy woman, Mrs. Simpson contributes generously to the National Heart Association, the American Cancer Society and to Alzheimer's research. And she continues a ministry of calling and writing the sick and shut-in from her church and those that have moved away from Charleston.

Mrs. Simpson earned a Bachelor of Arts in Education from Allen University, and a Masters degree in Education and Guidance from South Carolina State University, and did post-graduate work at North Carolina Central University. Mrs. Simpson has been a devoted wife for 55 years, and is the proud mother of two children. Her family is blessed with two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. She is a loving friend and caring sister, aunt and godmother.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in thanking Harriet G. Simpson for her lifetime of devotion to education and her community. She is a shining example of how one person can make a tremendous difference an entire community. I commend Mrs. Simpson for her significant contributions and thank her church family at Mt. Zion AME Church for recognizing her.

HONORING THE FLINT POWERS CATHOLIC H.S. CHARGERS

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to rise today to congratulate the Chargers of Flint Powers Catholic High School, on winning the 2005–2006 Michigan High School Athletic Association Division IV football championship. The Chargers defeated the Grand Rapids Catholic Central Cougars 17–10 in the final game, held November 25 at Ford Field in Detroit.

It was certainly an exciting game that showcased some of the best talent the State of Michigan has to offer.

The Chargers are a true testament of what hard work, dedication, determination, and a passionate desire to win can accomplish. Under the guidance of Head Coach Jack Pratt, and Assistant Coaches John Zintsmaster, David Pratt, John Pratt, and Brian McInerney, the championship served as a wonderful finish to a remarkable year, highlighted by a tremendous record of 12–2.

The Chargers roster includes: seniors Josh Babcock, Tom Birchmeier, Eddy Brady, Nick Brown, Nick DeGroot, David Filipovich, Austin Flores, Billy Gonsler, Matt Gregson, Nate

Kopydlowski, Tre Leoni, Andy McCarthy, Jamie Metcalf, Joe Mounger, Dain Murphy, Alex Perry, Tony Poma, Stevie Sleva, Zach Smith, Justin Ward, Ryan Webber, Zeke Zanettaj juniors Matthew Callahan, Kyle Everhart, Chris Filipovich, Eric Fridline, Ricky Guerra, Lance Harchick, Spencer Hickoff, Laval Lucas-Perry, Bobby Macciomei, Michael McPherson, Joshua Michalik, James Milne, Matt Ockerman, Adam Pelc, Ryan Riker, Ryan Sitko, Andrew Skowronski, Thomas Strong, Brad Witt and sophomores Chris Beer, Steve Bonar, John Buck, Louie Chamberlain, John Crook, Andy Herman, Ernie Jones, Tim Kirtak, Andrew Kowalczyk, Brendan Laney, Ronnie Lark, Jeff Maksymowski, Josh Miller, Aaron Sitko, Kyle Steibel, Alex Summers, David Weishuhn, Tom Zintsmaster, and Mike Zureikat. These young men, led by senior captains Birchmeier, Filipovich, Leoni, Poma, and Ward, proved to be leaders in the classroom, the football field, and the community. They are all shining examples of the school's commitment to success in all aspects of life.

Mr. Speaker, I salute the accomplishments of the Powers Chargers, and share the joy of victory with the students, faculty, parents, alumni, and the entire Flint community. I am certain that when these fine young men look back upon their high school days, they shall deservedly count this state championship as one of their most cherished memories. I ask my colleagues to please join me in congratulating them, and wishing them the very best in their future endeavors.

IN SEARCH OF MIDDLE EAST PEACE

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, the United States must rededicate itself to creating the groundwork for a lasting peace between all the sons of Abraham. A just and lasting peace will be achieved by imbuing the region with the unswerving proof that democracy is the better path than armed conflict and insurgency.

To quote a great American, Abe Lincoln, "The ballot is stronger than the bullet." The Palestinian elections are a historic opportunity to bring more Palestinians into the folds of a democratic state; replacing guns with ballots. This election will, hopefully, give President Abbas the legitimacy to implement the necessary reforms for a democratic government: eliminating paramilitary groups, ending corruption and creating a government infrastructure that can provide economic and social services. Hamas is a popular organization in many parts of the West Bank and Gaza because it, not the state, provides a variety of social services.

President Abbas must work to create law and order but, just as important, he needs to foster economic and social development for the Palestinian people, but he cannot do this alone. The West Bank and Gaza Strip will remain economically stagnant and ripe for further violence unless there are serious international efforts to improve the deplorable living conditions of Palestinians. I urge the Administration and my colleagues in Congress to robustly fund programs that will create economic development for Palestinians, which I

believe is an essential step in creating peace in the region.

Finally, the Administration and Congress should be promoting programs that bring about reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians. For example, programs like the Interfaith Encounter Association based in Jerusalem bring together Muslims, Jews and Christians to work on building peace and reconciliation. I urge the Administration to include robust funding in the FY 07 budget request for reconciliation programs and to work to build a strong, legitimate civil society in West Bank and Gaza so that Palestinians voices, not gunfire, can reverberate throughout the Middle East.

I voted for passage of H. Res. 575 not because it is the only solution, but because dismantling the Hamas terrorist organization is part of a solution for peace between two peoples who are truly brothers.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE KALAUPAPA MEMORIAL ACT OF 2005

HON. ED CASE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I am truly honored today to introduce, with my colleague, Congressman NEIL ABERCROMBIE, the Kalaupapa Memorial Act of 2005, legislation authorizing the establishment of a memorial at a suitable location or locations at Kalawao or Kalaupapa within the boundaries of Kalaupapa National Historical Park located on the island of Molokai, in my home State of Hawaii, to honor and perpetuate the memory of those individuals who were forcibly relocated to the Kalaupapa Peninsula from 1866 to 1969.

Kalaupapa National Historical Park, encompassing most of the isolated and haunting Kalaupapa Peninsula and adjacent lands, was established 25 years ago on December 22, 1980. In advance of celebrating its 25th anniversary, our National Park Service is hosting day-long commemorative activities today at Kalaupapa, and it is entirely fitting that we offer this measure during this time of renewed commemoration.

Kalaupapa National Historical Park is a very special and beautiful park with a rich and tragic history. While the park is widely known for the isolation and settlement of Hansen's disease patients from 1866 until 1969, Native Hawaiians inhabited the Kalaupapa Peninsula for 900 years prior to being forcibly removed from their homelands between 1865 and 1895. Surrounded on three sides by ocean and the fourth by steep cliffs, Kalaupapa is spectacularly breathtaking and ecologically diverse, home to nearly 20 federally listed threatened and endangered species of plants and animals. When one visits Kalaupapa today, it is like stepping back in time.

Due to its steep cliffs and isolated geography, the Kalaupapa Peninsula was used by the Kingdom of Hawaii, and subsequently the Territory and State of Hawaii, as an isolation settlement for individuals considered to have Hansen's disease, widely known as leprosy, for nearly a century. By law, individuals were forcibly separated from their families and isolated at Kalaupapa to "protect the welfare of

society." These isolation laws, dating back to 1865, were not abolished until 1969.

Although the World Health Organization still documents over a million registered cases of Hansen's disease worldwide, today it is considered one of the least contagious of all communicable diseases due to established and successful drug treatments. In Hawaii, those needing medical treatment outside of Kalaupapa are able to go to the Hale Mohalu wing of Leahi Hospital in Honolulu.

However, that is now, and the history of Kalaupapa is otherwise. Between 1866 and 1896, the first 5,000 individuals were forcibly relocated to Kalaupapa, most of whom lived at Kalawao. The second wave of patients (approximately 3,000) occurred after 1896 until 1969, when most of the community lived on the Kalaupapa side of the peninsula. Most of these unfortunate fellow citizens died on the peninsula; while many of their final resting places are known and remembered, many are not.

It is right and appropriate that these many lives be remembered, both individually and collectively, within the boundaries of the world to which they were condemned for life, through maintenance of the park itself, the history of the settlement, and an appropriate memorial. Ka Ohana O Kaluapapa, a non-profit organization consisting of patient residents at Kalaupapa National Historical Park and their family members and friends, was established in August 2003 for just this purpose: to promote the value and dignity of the 8,000+ individuals (at least 90 percent of who were Native Hawaiian) who were forcibly relocated to the Kalaupapa Peninsula.

Since its establishment, Ka Ohana O Kalaupapa has sought to honor and perpetuate the memory of these 8,000+ individuals through the establishment of a memorial at a suitable location or locations at Kalawao or Kalaupapa within the boundaries of Kalaupapa National Historical Park. I fully support its efforts, which have broad-based support from the Kalaupapa Advisory Council and the community.

The national and international significance of Kalaupapa is the rich and tragic history of the lives and memories of those individuals who were forcibly relocated to the Kalaupapa Peninsula between 1866 and 1969. It is fitting and appropriate that our nation, through the National Park Service, ensure that they are never forgotten through the establishment of a memorial.

I therefore believe that the establishment of a memorial is consistent with the basis for the park's establishment. It is timely. And it will enhance the purpose of the park, which is to "preserve and interpret the Kalaupapa settlement for the education and inspiration of present and future generations."

I look forward to working with my House colleagues, particularly members of the House Resources Committee, the National Park Service, and the Hawaii congressional delegation, in passing this legislation.

TRAIL RESPONSIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR THE LANDS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill, and congratulate my Colorado colleague, Mr. TANCREDI, for his leadership in introducing it.

I joined as a cosponsor of this bill because I also want to improve the ability of the land-managing agencies to adequately enforce the rules that apply to uses of the federal lands.

That is why in the 108th Congress I introduced a related bill—the Responsible Off-road Vehicle Enforcement and Response Act, or "ROVER." That bill was narrow, dealing only with enforcement of the regulations for use of vehicles on National Forest lands and public lands managed by BLM. This bill goes much further. In addition to the forests and BLM lands, it also applies to lands managed by the National Park Service and the refuges managed by the Fish and Wildlife Service. And it addresses the enforcement of all regulations, not just those related to use of vehicles.

Last year, Mr. TANCREDI and I worked with Chairman POMBO, Ranking Member RAHALL, and other Members of the Resources Committee, to develop the broader measure.

That bill passed the House, but the Senate did not complete action on it. So, Representative TANCREDI and I joined in reintroducing it as H.R. 975, the bill now before the House.

I urge its approval, because legislation for better and more consistent enforcement of regulations is needed. However, we need to recognize that it is only one part of a bigger picture.

Even more than new legislation, it seems to me, the land-managing agencies need more resources—more money and more people—if we want them to do a better job.

That was why I introduced a related bill—H.R. 599—which the Resources Committee has also reported. It would allow the agencies to use money from fines to help pay for some of the restoration work caused by violations of regulations, as well as for offsetting the administrative costs involved in enforcement of those regulations.

This is something that I think should be addressed in the future, and I will seek to work with other Members to do that. Today, however, we can take an important step forward by passing this bill, and I urge the House to approve it.

HONORING THE WORK OF EASTER SEALS OF SOUTHERN NEVADA

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the extraordinary efforts of Easter Seals in Southern Nevada. Their numerous programs provide the kind of community-based relief for individuals with disabilities and their families.

Unfortunately, one of these most valuable programs is facing significant financial hardship. This particular program has provided after school activities for children with disabilities from the age of 6 to 18 for the past 15 years. Without the help of business leaders and private individuals in the community, these children and their families will lose this most important resource. As a whole, Easter Seals is Nevada's largest community-based organization serving over 2,000 persons with disabilities and their families each year. Their efforts on behalf of individuals with disabilities bring greater self-sufficiency and most importantly greater dignity. We must work to ensure that these resources continue to be available in the community.

Mr. Speaker, I hope to bring to the attention of my colleagues the wonderful services that Easter Seals of Southern Nevada provides to the most vulnerable in our society. The needs of this single program highlight how we, as Members of Congress, must continue all of our efforts to strengthen the resources available to the neediest in our communities.

Easter Seals of Southern Nevada represents the ideal of a community-based care provider for disabled children. Without the generosity of all the individuals who make this dream a reality, these most valuable resources would fail to exist. I am confident that, during this holiday season, the businesses and individuals of Nevada will show their support for this important program and continue to demonstrate the generosity of my home community.

THE SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL ON-SITE STORAGE SECURITY ACT OF 2005

HON. JIM MATHESON

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, Nevada Senators HARRY REID and JOHN ENSIGN introduced federal legislation today to mandate that nuclear waste be stored on-site at nuclear power plant sites. I'm proud to join my colleague from Nevada, SHELLEY BERKLEY, in introducing legislation in the House to mandate that nuclear waste be stored on-site.

The West—whether it is Utah's Skull Valley or Nevada's Yucca Mountain—should not be the de facto dumping ground for nuclear waste. Storing nuclear waste on site is the safest, most reasonable and most effective way of allowing nuclear power plants to continue operating while we search for an appropriate long-term storage solution.

The Utah and Nevada delegations are united on this—JIM GIBBONS and JON PORTER from Nevada, and CHRIS CANNON and ROB BISHOP from my home state of Utah have joined in this fight on the House side and our senators, BOB BENNETT and ORRIN HATCH are cosponsors of the Senate bill.

Under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, the federal government has so far only focused on the flawed Yucca Mountain proposal for a central repository for spent nuclear fuel rods. Given the wealth of concerns about incomplete scientific evidence and falsified documentation stemming from the Yucca proposal and the clear gaps in transportation security for waste sent to the West, on-site storage is a much better solution.