

Such hubris cannot be allowed to stand unchallenged. Along with my colleague, the chairman of the Resources Committee, RICHARD POMBO, I am introducing today legislation to address this deplorable situation and to restore the public's right of access to its Federal public lands. The liberation of Navassa and Desecheo Islands begins today.

This legislation would accomplish two main goals. First, it would require the Fish and Wildlife Service to provide public access, use of, and recreational opportunities to resolve this particular dispute. Second, the legislation would require the Service to establish at least one period of time each year for public access to each refuge.

Of great importance to me, language authorizing the Service to specify use periods and to attach reasonable permit restrictions in order to protect resources and public safety should provide adequate flexibility to balance the competing interests of resource protection and public recreation.

Another benefit of this legislation will be to help harmonize existing use policies at these refuges with three other remote refuges in the Pacific, Baker Island, Johnson Island and Jarvis Island. These three refuges, all accessible by way of special use permits, show plainly that controlled public recreational access is possible even at extremely remote and fragile refuges.

In fact, the ham radio operators were successful in securing a permit to visit Baker Island as recently as 2002. In fairness, the same access should be provided to Navassa Island and Desecheo.

I am fully aware of the Service's need to balance public access with the Refuge System's overall "wildlife first" mission.

The Service cannot, however, be allowed to selectively choose to implement those parts of its authority it favors but ignore those requirements to provide for public recreation which are clearly stated in existing law.

I urge members to support this important legislation.

CONGRATULATING RAMSEY COUNTY COMMISSIONER SUSAN HAIGH AS THE NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF TWIN CITIES HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 25, 2005

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ramsey County Commissioner Susan Haigh on being named the new Executive Director of Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity. Ms. Haigh will assume this new position after she leaves her seat on the County Board on February 1st.

For the past ten years, Commissioner Haigh served on the Ramsey County Board, championing affordable housing and improving the quality of life for the families of Ramsey County. Currently she chairs the Board's Human Services and Workforce Solutions Committee where she has advocated for families throughout Ramsey County. Before serving in her elected office, Haigh worked in the Ramsey County Attorney's Office, serving as chief legal counsel to the County Board, chief deputy prosecutor and managing attorney.

Throughout her years of service, Commissioner Haigh has put the families of Ramsey County first. As county commissioner, Ms. Haigh led the creation of the Housing Endowment Fund, a \$5 million incentive program to spur construction of affordable rental housing. This kind of valuable experience will help Twin Cities Habitat address the increasing challenges of affordable housing development.

Commissioner Haigh brings fresh vision and wisdom of experience to Habitat for Humanity. I have had the privilege of working with her, and I know that she is deeply committed to affordable housing issues. Ms. Haigh believes in Habitat's mission of helping to build strong homes and strong families.

Over the years, Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity has helped nearly 600 families become owners of quality, affordable housing. I am confident that Ms. Haigh will continue this record of success.

It has been a privilege to work with Sue, and I wish her the best of luck on her new position.

RECOGNIZING VICTOR O. WOY

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 25, 2005

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Victor O. Woy for his 32 years of committed service to the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission. His presence with the Commission will be sorely missed.

A lifelong resident of Everett, PA, Victor began his journey through the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission as a clerk. After proving himself as a capable worker and quietly earning recognition for his incomparable performance on the job, Mr. Woy's distinguishing loyalty was acknowledged as he became a Construction Manager. Working tirelessly to overcome the obstacles of having to learn and master continually changing technology, Victor flourished in this position, where he remained until December 9, 2004, and was awarded the Senior Inspector-in-Charge of the Year award in 1999.

To the enjoyment of local citizens, Mr. Woy's spirit and dedication has translated into every aspect of his life. He remains actively involved with his church and various projects in and around Everett, as well as spending time with his wife, five children and five grandchildren. His uncompromising sense of duty to the community in which he lives has been a source of inspiration.

In the 32 years that Mr. Woy has had a significant hand in the operations, the Turnpike Commission has become a more efficient organization, making a strong impact on the State. He has demonstrated an unyielding enthusiasm and care for the Commission which he has served. For his incomparable generosity, service to the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission, and unabated commitment to excellence, Victor O. Woy deserves the highest recognition. He has left behind a legacy as an outstanding manager, incorporating leadership skills, innovative solutions to problems, and an efficient work ethic.

As a pillar of strength within his community of Everett, Mr. Woy has been a role model and leader who is admired by many. His con-

tributions will not go unnoticed by the business for which he worked nor the community in which he lives. I would like to congratulate Mr. Woy on his accomplishments, and I wish him the best of luck in his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO WALTER W. PORTER, JR.

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 25, 2005

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the life and work of a man who I am proud to represent in Congress and prouder still to call a friend, Walter W. Porter, Jr. I have worked with Walter closely over the years and can say without reservation Mr. Speaker, that you would be hard pressed to find an individual more committed to improving the lives of those in his community than Walter Porter.

A life-long resident of my hometown, Paterson, New Jersey, Walter Porter has had an extensive career in public service. Matriculating from the Paterson Public School System, Walter met and married his wife Mildred shortly after graduating from Eastside High School. Walter Porter's life has long been intertwined with public service. His selfless devotion to others began when he entered into the Army to fight in World War II. As an Infantry Combat Officer, Walter earned a Bronze Star, Combat Infantry Badge and Purple Heart for his heroic actions.

Upon returning from the frontlines of the Battle of the Bulge, Walter joined the Paterson Police Department. It was during his tenure as a motorcycle officer that Walter came to be known around town as a "straight shooter and a man of the people." The knowledge and experiences Walter gained on the streets of Paterson laid the foundation for the many successful years of public service ahead.

Remaining in the law enforcement sector, Walter transferred to the Passaic County Prosecutor's Office where he rose to the rank of Captain. After a long and successful tenure with the Prosecutor's Office, Walter retired in 1979. However, he would not rest on his laurels. The year following his retirement, Walter ran for a seat on the Passaic County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

After a successful bid for Freeholder, Walter began to work diligently on behalf of the people of Passaic County. Throughout his tenure on the Board of Chosen Freeholders Walter Porter has been a steady supporter of the law enforcement community, veterans groups and the senior citizen community of Passaic County.

Chosen by his colleagues on the Freeholder Board, Walter has served four one-year terms as Freeholder Director. Additionally, he has served on each of the committees within the Freeholder Board. His professional demeanor and commitment to good government earned Walter the moniker, "Dean of the Board of Freeholders."

Walter's tireless devotion to serving the people of Passaic County extends far beyond his life as a public official. He is a co-founder of the Boys & Girls Club of Paterson, a Life Member of Elks Lodge #60 and a member of several veterans' organizations.

His continued support of the law enforcement community has earned Walter many accolades from various groups. The Paterson Police Benevolent Association presented Mr. Porter, a past president of the association, the Lifetime Silver PBA Card. Additionally he is an Honorary Chief of the Passaic County Chiefs Association.

Walter Porter will be deeply missed on the Passaic County Board of Chosen Freeholders. His legacy of integrity, devotion and commitment to his community will carry on in all of the wonderful accomplishments he saw come to fruition during his tenure in public service.

Mr. Speaker, the job of a United States Congressman involves so much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing the extraordinary efforts of public servants like Walter Porter. I ask that you join our colleagues, Walter's family and friends, a grateful County of Passaic, New Jersey and me in recognizing Walter W. Porter, Jr. for his long history of leadership and community service.

IN MEMORY OF JACK ROSENBERG

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 25, 2005

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the lifelong accomplishments of Jack Rosenberg. Mr. Rosenberg died January 11, 2005, at the age of 84.

A graduate of Milwaukee's Riverside High School, Jack Rosenberg went on to serve in the armed forces in WWII before settling into a long and successful business career. He led several corporate entities, and retired in 1995 after overseeing the national franchise of TeleCheck for over 18 years.

Throughout his life Jack maintained a strong commitment to improving life in the City of Milwaukee. He had a great variety of interests and he never hesitated to offer hands-on leadership when needed. His concern for the needs of low income families is evident in his work with the COA Youth and Family Center. He received the Grand Avenue Leadership Award in recognition of his efforts to provide work opportunities and cultural experiences for people with disabilities. Several noted small businesses benefited from a loan fund he endowed with the Wisconsin Women's Business Initiative Corporation.

His financial contributions to productive non-profit organizations working in the areas of arts, civil liberties, entrepreneurship, and education are too numerous to list.

It saddens me to note the passing of such a committed and distinguished individual. I am pleased to have this opportunity to recognize Jack for these profound contributions to so many individuals, as well as the entire Milwaukee community.

CONGRATULATING THE ST. LUKE A.M.E. ZION CHURCH

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 25, 2005

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the St. Luke

A.M.E. Zion Church of Lawrence County, Pennsylvania on its 160th anniversary.

This past December the church celebrated the anniversary of its foundation in 1844 and stands as the oldest African American church in Lawrence County. St. Luke's is a source of inspiration and symbol of strength for all its members and the Lawrence County community as a whole. In order to mark the special occasion Reverend Kevin Lee, assistant pastor of the Second Baptist Church of New Brighton, spoke at the 11 a.m., Sunday worship. Reverend Robert Lewis Sr., former pastor of St. Luke's and current pastor of St. James of Massillon, Ohio, spoke following a 4 p.m. catered dinner.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring the congregation of St. Luke A.M.E. Zion Church in Lawrence County, Pennsylvania. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute an enduring institution like St. Luke's.

RECOGNIZING RYAN GARY FRAZER FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 25, 2005

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Ryan Gary Frazer, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 45, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout. Ryan is currently a senior at Central High School in Saint Joseph, Missouri, and is the son of Gary and Sandy Frazer.

Ryan began his scouting career as a Tiger Cub Scout before advancing to Webelo Scout. After completing Cub Scouts, Ryan rose through the ranks of the Boy Scouts, achieving the ranks of Tenderfoot, Second Class Scout, First Class Scout, Star Scout, Life Scout, and now Eagle Scout. Ryan served his troop in numerous leadership positions, including Librarian, Historian, Scribe, and Patrol Leader. Along the way, Ryan earned 24 merit badges and several awards including the Arrow of Light Award and the 50 Miler Award on three separate occasions for Adventure Trips to Wyoming, Mississippi, and Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico. Ryan is also a member of the Tribe of Mic-O-Say, where he holds the name "Ice Badger."

For his Eagle Scout project, Ryan led a team of volunteers that renovated the children's playground area at Ashland United Methodist Church in Saint Joseph. The playground area is an integral part of Church life, as it sits in the center of the Ashland United Methodist's courtyard; the playground is used by children attending numerous church classes and activities. Ryan and his team spent over 100 hours completing this project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Ryan Gary Frazer for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

FILIPINO VETERANS' EQUITY ACT INTRODUCTION

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 25, 2005

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Filipino Veterans Equity Act, bipartisan legislation which would grant full recognition of the service and sacrifices of a key group of veterans and return to them the benefits promised to them by the U.S. government.

On July 26, 1941, President Roosevelt issued a military order, calling members of the Philippine Commonwealth Army into the service of the United States Forces of the Far East, under the command of then Lieutenant General Douglas MacArthur.

From 1941 to 1945, over 100,000 Filipinos of the Philippine Commonwealth Army fought alongside the allies to reclaim the Philippine Islands from Japan. A second group of Filipino veterans, the New Philippine Scouts (or "Special Philippine Scouts") enlisted under U.S. Armed Forces command after October 6, 1945. Regrettably, instead of fulfilling promises made and providing equal benefits in return for their service, Congress enacted the Rescission Act of 1946. The Rescission Act limited Filipino veterans' eligibility for service-connected disability pensions, death benefits, and other benefits provided to U.S. Armed Forces veterans.

Correcting this inequity is long overdue. There are less than 50,000 survivors of the total estimated 300,000 Filipino veterans who served during World War II. Approximately 20,000 of these survivors are not receiving the full benefits they earned. By 2010, the VA estimates there will only be a total of 20,000 World War II Filipino veterans in all categories. I urge my colleagues to join me in moving this legislation forward in the 109th Congress, and working with me to provide these deserving veterans the benefits they deserve.

HONORING DONALD A. SPENCER, SR. AS A GREAT LIVING CIN- CINNATIAN

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 25, 2005

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Donald A. Spencer, Sr., an educator, real estate broker, community activist, musician and composer, who will be formally honored as a Great Living Cincinnatian on February 24, 2005 by the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce. Recipients of this prestigious annual award are chosen on the basis of professional achievement; leadership; vision; and community service. Past honorees have included Neil Armstrong; Dr. Albert Sabin and Charles Scripps—and Mr. Spencer's energetic wife of 64 years, Marian, a former vice mayor of Cincinnati and longtime community activist. In fact, Mr. Spencer is the first recipient of the award to be married to a Great Living Cincinnatian.

Born in Cincinnati, Mr. Spencer graduated from Walnut Hills High School and earned