

used for bonus bids or royalties for mineral leases on the Outer Continental Shelf; and authority to provide eligible BLM lands (or interests) anywhere in the country in exchange for the interests acquired at Rocky Flats (waiving the current requirement that exchanges must be within the same state).

SECTION-BY-SECTION OUTLINE

Section 1—

(1) provides a short title: "Rocky Flats Minerals Acquisition Act."

(2) includes findings regarding the status of Rocky Flats and the desirability of federal acquisition of mineral interests within its boundaries

(3) states the bill's purpose as being to facilitate acquisition of non-Federal interests at Rocky Flats by authorizing the Interior Department to use credits or interests in certain public lands—provided that the owners of the acquired lands or interests concur—instead of or in addition to cash.

Section 2—

(1) authorizes the Interior Department to use appropriated funds, credits (with the concurrence of the party transferring lands or interests to the United States), exchanged lands or interests therein, or any combination of these, to acquire mineral interests or other non-Federal interests at Rocky Flats,

(2) defines "credits," making clear that they can only be used for bonus bids or royalty payments for oil or gas leases on the Outer Continental Shelf, can be transferred, and must be used within 10 years of their issuance;

(3) specifies that while exchanges can involve BLM lands or interests in any State, only lands or interests identified as suitable for disposal under current law can be transferred to private ownership through such an exchange;

(4) specifies that no lands or interests therein outside the exterior boundaries of Rocky Flats can be acquired by the United States for the purposes of the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge Act except with the consent of the owners of such lands or interests.

(5) provides that interests acquired by the United States under the bill will be managed as part of the wildlife refuge and cannot be developed or transferred out of Federal ownership; and

(6) specifies that the bill adds to the Interior Department's existing authority and does not reduce any authority the Department already has.

CONGRATULATING LOGAN
MANKINS ON BEING DRAFTED
BY NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Logan Mankins on his selection by the New England Patriots in the 2005 NFL Draft. Mr. Mankins was selected by the Patriots in the first round of the Draft on April 23, 2005.

Mr. Mankins is a native of my hometown, Cathey's Valley, in Mariposa County. He attended Mariposa County High School, where he excelled in football and basketball. He was a two-year, two-way starter at linebacker and tight end for the Grizzly football team and was the team MVP, as well as an all-league selection.

In 2001 Mr. Mankins began a three-year career at Fresno State. During his career he

played as a left tackle on the offensive line, protecting the quarterback from opposing defenses. In 2004 he was a second-team All-American selection and was also named to Sports Illustrated's All-Bowl team. He was the first offensive lineman ever to be named team MVP for Fresno State. In his final 387 passing plays, he did not allow a single sack.

Mr. Mankins is the first football player ever drafted by the NFL from Mariposa County. He was selected by the Patriots to play guard on the offensive line. I am sure pro-football will be more exciting this year for the people of Mariposa County, as they watch a friend and neighbor playing for one of the most prestigious teams in America.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Logan Mankins on his well-earned success. I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating his remarkable accomplishment.

RECOGNIZING ALS AWARENESS
MONTH AND THE ALS ASSOCIATION
OF GEORGIA

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), often known as Lou Gehrig's disease. ALS is a progressive disorder that occurs when motor nerve cells in the central nervous system cease functioning and die. Each year, over 5,000 people in the United States are diagnosed with this illness. There are 600 patients in Georgia alone. Sadly, there is no known cause, cure, or means of control in the advanced stages, ALS care can cost up to \$200,000 per year, depleting the financial resources of patients and relatives.

In Georgia, families impacted by ALS are blessed to have the support of The ALS Association of Georgia, which is a non-profit organization dedicated to the fight against ALS and the support of patients and their caregivers. Over 80% of all monies raised goes directly to patient services. Services offered include information and referrals, home nursing visits, support groups, coordination of medical care, equipment loan, children's counseling, respite care, public education and awareness, and research support. The suffering of patients and the anguish and struggle of caregivers must be supported and alleviated as much as possible.

I commend The ALS Association of Georgia for all of their good work in serving patients with this devastating disease. During the month of May, which is ALS Awareness Month, I urge all citizens and my colleagues here in Congress to become educated about ALS and to lend their aid to combating this disease.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF VICTORY IN EUROPE (V-E) DAY DURING WORLD WAR II

SPEECH OF

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 3, 2005

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, sixty years ago the guns and bombs in Europe fell silent, and President Truman announced victory over Europe to a proud and free world.

I rise today to commemorate the 60th anniversary of this great and very important day, and to recognize the sacrifices and accomplishments of the men and women who so bravely served to defeat hate and aggression.

I join millions of people participating in thousands of events, in New York City, all across the United States, and around the world, in observing and honoring the courage of American service-members, allied soldiers, and homefront workers.

During April 1945, allied forces led by the United States overran Nazi Germany from the west while Russian forces advanced from the east. On April 25, American and Russian troops met at the Elbe River. After 6 years of war, suffering, and devastation, Nazi Germany was formally defeated a few days later on May 8, 1945.

It was a bittersweet victory. Over 400,000 American soldiers died in World War II; 350,000 British soldiers gave their lives; and a staggering 20 million Russian soldiers and civilians perished in the war fighting German aggression on their home soil. The war also brought about the most horrendous systematic murder which humanity has ever known, the Holocaust.

In memory of all the victims of World War II, it is our duty to raise our voices as one and say to the present and future generations that no one has the right to remain indifferent to anti-Semitism, xenophobia and racial or religious intolerance.

This is an occasion to remember and commemorate. We must remember why the war was fought, remember the victims and heroes, and thank those who fought so hard and sacrificed so much.

V-E Day marked the promise of a peaceful future for a Europe ravaged by unspeakable horror and war. Although freedom did not come to every European nation following the defeat of Nazi Germany, today we stand at the threshold of a very hopeful future based on sovereignty, democracy, freedom and cooperation.

Madam Speaker, I take this opportunity to honor those individuals who gave their lives during the liberation of Europe, to thank the veterans of World War II, and to commemorate the defeat of Nazism and Fascism by freedom-loving people.

HONORING DR. PORTIA HOLMES
SHIELDS

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, tonight I rise in recognition of a true leader,

scholar and public servant, Dr. Portia Holmes Shields. While we cannot claim her as a native of our State her extraordinary service as the seventh President of Albany State University has proven that she not only made Georgia her home these past nine years, she made it better.

When Dr. Shields first became President of Albany State University in 1996, she not only faced the challenge of being the first woman in that role, she confronted a campus ravaged by floodwaters. She met the challenge head-on and spearheaded a \$153 million flood-recovery program that brought new life to the Southwest Georgia institution. Yet beyond improvements to the university's face and physical structure, under the direction of Dr. Shields, Albany State University has become an institution to be proud of.

Today, enrollment is up nearly 20 percent as Albany State maintains the third-highest retention rate among the University System of Georgia's 34 colleges and universities. Since the fall of 1996, the average SAT scores of incoming freshmen also jumped by more than 120 points. By following her own personal mission of putting students first, Dr. Shields has helped recruit the best and brightest and has added three new undergraduate programs at the institution including the state of Georgia's only forensic science program. In addition, her prowess as a fundraiser has been instrumental in making her vision for the University possible today and into the future.

This Friday, May 6, 2005, I will join Albany State University in honoring Dr. Portia Holmes Shields and wishing her continued future success in whatever path she might choose. However, here in this hallowed hall, I rise on behalf of the city of Albany, the Second Congressional District and the State of Georgia to honor the extraordinary contribution that Dr. Shields has made to our community and to the many students whose lives she has touched. She will be truly missed.

SMALL BUSINESS BILL OF RIGHTS AND SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my support for the Small Business Bill of Rights (H. Res. 22).

I think it is time we help small businesses so they can in turn help themselves. Small business owners desperately need our help in ensuring they can provide their employees with the best possible benefits.

What better time to consider this bill than on National Small Business Week. I would be remiss if I did not mention that last year's Small Business Person of the year was from Columbus, Georgia. Sheree W. Mitchell started with an SBA loan in 1989 and turned her day care center business, Growing Room Inc., into a \$5 million per year enterprise. I think Sheree should be a poster child for small businesses. She has proven that with persistence and entrepreneur thinking it is possible to build a successful enterprise from scratch.

I also want to congratulate the 2005 SBA Award winners for the state of Georgia: Tom Eaves, President and CEO of Star Software

Systems Corporation in Warner Robins, Georgia—Small Business Person of the Year; Win Roshell, Minority Small Business Champion of the Year; Mountville Mills, Inc., Family-Owned Small Business of the Year; Amanda Rodriguez, Young Entrepreneur of the Year; C. Vance Leavy, Small Business Journalist of the Year.

These folks know what it takes to successfully run a small business and they should be recognized and praised for it. They were selected to be honored based on their record of stability, growth in employment and sales, financial condition, innovation, response to adversity, and community service.

I am strongly supporting H. Res. 22 for people like those I've just named. This piece of legislation clarifies Congressional support for seven key issues importance to every small business. As a former small business owner, I can testify to the importance of each one of these. These seven issues are: reducing health insurance costs through Association Health Plans, ending frivolous lawsuits, red tape relief, tax relief, increasing access to capital, opening access to government contracts and reducing energy costs.

These issues are commonsense rights every small business owner deserves and I hope the passing of this resolution will bring awareness to the seven areas this resolution addresses.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to co-sponsor and vote for the Small Business Bill of Rights.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE U.S. SKI AND SNOWBOARD ASSOCIATION

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a national sports organization that began in Ishpeming, Michigan. The United States Ski and Snowboard Association is the national governing body for Olympic skiing and snowboarding and is celebrating its 100th anniversary on May 6th.

Originally founded as the National Ski Association (NSA) in 1904 by the local Ishpeming Ski Club, the NSA was the birthplace of organized skiing in the United States. The group changed their name to the United States Ski Association in 1962 and, as snowboarding grew in popularity and gained credibility as a sport, the final name change occurred in 1997 to the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association (USSA).

As the governing body for U.S. Olympic ski and snowboarding, the USSA has been consolidated since 1988 with the U.S. Ski Team in Park City, Utah where the team has been based since 1974. However, as a tribute to the founding roots of the organization, the United States National Ski Hall of Fame and Museum is still based in Ishpeming, Michigan where it also celebrates its 50th anniversary May 6th. The Hall of Fame proudly displays photos and short bios of 342 inductees.

In the one hundred year history of the USSA, it is proclaimed as the most diverse of any Olympic Sports organization with seven different athletic sport programs. The USSA Olympic Sports programs include alpine, cross

country, disabled, freestyle, ski jumping, Nordic combined and snowboarding. The USSA manages 14 different men's and women's national teams, accounting for half of the Olympic Winter Games events.

In order to be serious international competitors, the organization requires the tremendous number of athletes to be trained and supported by an ever larger network of people. The USSA is comprised of 30,000 athletes, coaches, officials and volunteers and more than 100,000 parents, supporters and devotees. With this powerhouse of world class talent and support, the USSA should have no problem fulfilling their goal of making the United States of America the best in the world in Olympic skiing and snowboarding by 2006.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the United States Ski and Snowboard Association on their first 100 years and in wishing them well in bringing home the Olympic spirit and the "gold" throughout the next century.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE COLORADO NORTHERN FRONT RANGE MOUNTAIN BACKDROP PROTECTION STUDY ACT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I am again introducing the Colorado Northern Front Range Mountain Backdrop Protection Study Act. I introduced similar bills in the 107th and 108th Congresses.

The bill is intended to help local communities identify ways to protect the Front Range Mountain Backdrop in the northern sections of the Denver-metro area, especially the region just west of the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology site. The Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest includes much of the land in this backdrop area, but there are other lands involved as well.

Rising dramatically from the Great Plains, the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains provides a scenic mountain backdrop to many communities in the Denver metropolitan area and elsewhere in Colorado. The portion of the range within and adjacent to the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest also includes a diverse array of wildlife habitats and provides many opportunities for outdoor recreation.

The open-space character of this mountain backdrop is an important esthetic and economic asset for adjoining communities, making them attractive locations for homes and businesses. But rapid population growth in the northern Front Range area of Colorado is increasing recreational use of the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest and is also placing increased pressure for development of other lands within and adjacent to that national forest.

We can see this throughout Colorado and especially along the Front Range. Homes and shopping centers are sprawling up valleys and along highways that feed into the Front Range. This development then spreads out along the ridges and mountain tops that make up the backdrop. We are in danger of losing to development many of the qualities that have helped attract new residents. So, it is important to better understand what steps might