

strategy. Since the order was promulgated, the affected agencies have developed reports and strategies.

Need for the Bill: Although federal agencies and offices have been complying with the Executive Order, disproportionate impacts related to human health and the environment still exist for many minority and low-income communities. These impacts must be addressed over the long term. In addition, due to the lack of resources and political clout of many of these impacted communities, vigilance is required to make sure that disproportionate impacts are reduced and do not continue. As the effort to date has been primarily administrative based on the presidential order and memorandum, these strategies need to be incorporated into the routine functioning of federal agencies and offices through federal law.

The bill—

Requires federal agencies and offices to: include addressing environmental justice concerns into their respective missions; conduct programs so as not to create disproportionate impact on minority and low-income populations; include an examination of the effects of such action on the health and environment of minority and low-income populations for actions that require environmental analyses under the National Environmental Policy Act; create an environmental justice strategy to address disproportionate impacts of its policies and actions, and conduct and collect research on the disproportionate impacts from federal facilities.

Creates an Interagency Environmental Justice Working Group to develop strategies, provide guidance, coordinate research, convene public meetings, and conduct inquiries regarding environmental justice issues.

Creates a Federal Environmental Justice Advisory Committee composed of members of community-based groups, business, academic, state agencies and environmental organizations which will provide input and advice to the Interagency Working Group.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF RON KUNTZ

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to today in honor and recognition of acclaimed sports photographer Ron Kuntz, for his masterful artistry in capturing defining moments in Cleveland sports history, a legacy that spans more than fifty years and continues today, and for his ministry of the heart, a vocation that continues to provide light and solace for those living without hope.

Beyond his unwavering dedication to his family and to his profession, Mr. Kuntz shares his stories, photographs and compassion with prisoners in Ohio and across the country. His outreach began thirty years ago, when Mr. Kuntz first volunteered with the Bill Glass Prison Ministry. Mr. Kuntz' gifts of spiritual guidance and kindness continues to serve as a source of comfort and support for those who live in desolate isolation.

The inspiring photographs of Mr. Kuntz jump with energy and emotion from the pages and wires of local and national publications. His ar-

tistry is evidenced in every picture, highlighting his unique ability to seize the true essence of a remarkable moment. From the dark room to the newsroom, Mr. Kuntz brings the emotion and movement of a moment already gone, back to life—a split-second portrait of the human condition framed by athletic competition.

His work chronicles the great legends and legendary moments of professional athletes and teams of Cleveland, especially the Cleveland Indians—from the glowing victories to the crushing defeats. Armed with an affable nature and quick smile, Mr. Kuntz garnered the respect, trust and admiration of everyone around him. His joy for life is reflected in the photographs he has taken, and within his outreach to others.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Ron Kuntz brilliant photographer, dedicated family man, and compassionate volunteer, whose work and ministry continues to be a gift to our entire community. As he journeys onward from here, we offer him blessings of health, happiness and peace. We look forward to the continued artistry of Ron Kuntz, a man of heart, integrity and deep sense of service to others, whose very life continues to elevate the lives of others, with a snapshot, handshake, kind word and a smile.

TRIBUTE TO MR. DARRYL KEHRER

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Darryl Kehrer, Staff Director for the Subcommittee on Benefits of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, who is retiring after 37 years, 33 of which were devoted of public service to our nation's veterans.

Darryl's distinguished career in public service began with active duty in the United States Air Force from 1966–1970, after which he received an Honorable Discharge as Staff Sergeant. Since then, he has served with distinction at the Department of Veterans Affairs, the United States Senate, and as Staff Director of the Subcommittee on Benefits of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs at the United States House of Representatives. Furthermore, he served as Executive Director of the Congressional Veterans Claims Adjudication Commission, and Staff Director of the Panel on Veterans' Benefits for the Congressional Commission on Servicemembers and Veterans Transition Assistance.

Darryl has dedicated his career to improving the lives of our nation's veterans and to provide them with the very best with respect to benefits and services in their transition to civilian life. He has made significant contributions to the development and enactment of veterans' legislation to improve education, employment, and transition assistance, to name just a few of his accomplishments.

As the Chairman of the Veterans Benefits Subcommittee during the 107th Congress, Darryl's strong work ethic and commitment to the issues was unwavering. He worked tirelessly with me to enact the Jobs for Veterans Act (PL 107–288), and since then he has continued his work with the Department of Labor to ensure the legislation is reaching veterans

and helping them make the transition from military service to civilian employment. His comments and insight into issues affecting veterans was invaluable to me when I served as the Chairman and continues to be today.

Darryl has been a guest instructor at the University of Missouri and the Harry S Truman Library, the John Stennis Institute of Government at Mississippi State University, West Potomac and Annandale High Schools in Virginia, the United States Military Academy, and the United States Air Force Academy. Using the Montgomery GI Bill as an example of how legislation is made, he developed a case study on the enactment of this significant piece of veterans legislation, providing students with a hands-on approach to law-making. He has accompanied me to both West Point and the Air Force Academy, where we visited with instructors and spent time with the cadets. At the Air Force Academy, we did a joint presentation to students regarding the Member and staff perspectives of the U.S. Congress. His success as a guest instructor is clearly demonstrated by how frequently these renowned institutions ask him to return.

Darryl's passions are teaching, mentoring, and baseball. He has spent the past fifteen years volunteering for the Annandale Little League, and the League established an ongoing scholarship in his name. Called the "Kehrer Cup," it is awarded to the youngster who personifies the values of Little League Baseball and includes a \$550 scholarship to the Little League Baseball International Summer Camp. He also received the Ellie Doyle Award for his exemplary partnership with the Fairfax County government in youth sports activities. A self-proclaimed "baseball fanatic," Darryl has used his passion to instill the love of the game and the ideals of sportsmanship in children and young adults.

Mr. Speaker, throughout his career as a public servant and volunteer in the community, Darryl has exemplified the highest ideals of family, community, and public service. With his retirement, we are losing an exemplary public servant and true friend of our nation's veterans. Thank you, Darryl, for your many years of dedicated service to our nation.

RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF YOGI BHAJAN

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution honoring the life and numerous contributions of Yogi Bhaajan, the chief religious and administrative authority for Sikhism in the West. Yogi Bhaajan passed away in Española, New Mexico on October 6, 2004 at age 75.

A native of India, Yogi Bhaajan introduced thousands around the world to Sikhism, a religion that carries the message of truthful living and the fundamental unity of humanity, and reaches out to people of all backgrounds to work together for world peace. When he came to the United States in 1968, Yogi Bhaajan recognized immediately that the experience sought by many young people through drugs could be alternatively achieved through

Kundalini yoga, which stimulates individual growth through breath, chanting, and meditation among other components. Soon after, he founded the Healthy, Happy, Holy Organization (3HO), a nonprofit private educational and scientific foundation with 300 centers in 35 countries, dedicated to improving physical well-being, deepening spiritual awareness, and offering guidance on matters of health and heart. He later also founded a successful drug rehabilitation program that blends ancient yogic wisdom of the East with modern technology of the West.

In 1971, the president of the governing body of Sikh Temples in India gave Yogi Bhan the title of chief religious and administrative authority for Sikhism in the Western Hemisphere. That same year, the Sikh Dharma was legally incorporated and recognized as a religion in the U.S., and soon after Yogi Bhan founded the Sikh ashram that still thrives in Española, New Mexico in my district. Yogi Bhan wrote 30 books and inspired 200 more through his teaching, and inspired the founding of several businesses including Akal Security Inc., one of the fastest growing security companies in the nation. Throughout his lifetime, he traveled the world and met with world leaders such as Pope John Paul II and the Dalai Lama to discuss world peace and religious unity. He also served as informal counsel to numerous political and spiritual leaders. As the resolution states, Yogi Bhan's teachings and the businesses formed under his inspiration, improved personal, political, spiritual and professional relations between citizens of the United States and citizens of the nation of India.

After the terrorist attacks on U.S. soil on September 11th, Yogi Bhan reached out to Sikhs across America, encouraging and helping them to educate their fellow citizens about Sikhs, and to work with law enforcement and community leaders to help them protect Sikh populations. He established links to human rights advocates nationwide to ensure that the issue of Sikh identity was understood and respected. When a Sikh man named Balbir Singh Sodhi was murdered in Arizona five days after 9/11, Yogi Bhan worked with community and government leaders in Arizona to help raise awareness about the Sikh community there, and to honor Balbir Singh with a major memorial event.

I had the privilege of Yogi Bhan's friendship and support for more than 20 years. He was a dynamic, powerful person with a strong devotion to human rights, religious freedom, and good health. Whatever one's faith, he had the right words, the right lesson, and the right message. He spoke to us all, and he inspired us. Around the world he was a powerful voice for peace. I am also proud that my State of New Mexico made history by designating October 23rd as "Yogi Bhan Memorial Day."

The resolution I am introducing today recognizes Yogi Bhan as a wise teacher and mentor, an outstanding pioneer, a champion of peace and compassionate human being, and extends condolences on his passing. I introduced this bill at the end of the 108th Congress, soon after Yogi Bhan's passing, and I hope my colleagues and I can work together to pass the resolution during the 109th. I would like to thank members of the House India Caucus, who helped build support for this resolution, as well as Senators JEFF BINGAMAN, PETE DOMENICI, and JOHN CORNYN, who will introduce the Senate companion. I

also thank House International Relations Committee Chairman HENRY HYDE and Ranking Member TOM LANTOS for their strong support, as well as the bipartisan group of original co-sponsors who join me in urging my colleagues to support this important resolution.

HONORING SALLY MAZZARELLA

HON. JOHN E. SWEENEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and honor an extraordinary citizen. Sally Mazzarella, of Rhinebeck, New York, along with help from friends and family, has devoted an immeasurable amount of time and effort to make her community and Dutchess County a better place to live.

Sally has exemplified selfless and tireless community leadership. She is president of the Winnakee Land Trust and serves on the boards of Families First New York and the Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck. In the past, Sally has served on the boards of the United Way of Dutchess County, Family and Services Inc., Hudson Valley Philharmonic, and Dutchess Housing Partnership. Since 1990, Sally has worked alongside State Senator Stephen Saland as a Constituent Services Representative working to solve the problems facing the 41st Senate District of NY.

Sally recently served as chairwoman of leadership gifts for the \$2.2 million expansion project for the Starr Library. She has co-chaired the YWCA's \$2 million capital campaign renovation project and the Mid-Hudson Children's Museum \$2.8 million acquisition project. Sally is also chairwoman of the Rhinebeck Comprehensive Plan Revision Project, a community-wide planning initiative focusing on Rhinebeck's future.

Sally has also served as chairwoman of the Town of Rhinebeck Planning Board. She has been an active member of the New York State Planning Federation and the Dutchess County Planning Federation, as a member of Hudson River Shorelines Task Force. Sally also served as a representative of the Chairman of the Dutchess County Legislature on the Hudson Valley Regional Council.

In recognition of Sally's continued work and service to her community, the Community Foundation of Dutchess County has recently honored Sally, as have many other organizations throughout the region over the years. Sally's tireless and dedicated service demonstrates the essence of what it means to be a citizen. People like Sally across the nation form the fabric of our society.

At this time, it is important we honor such individuals for their devoted and generous work, leadership, and service on behalf of their communities. As evidenced by Sally's achievements, it is people like her that make our communities better places to live.

IN HONOR AND MEMORY OF
DETECTIVE LOUIS J. DECK

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 26, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Detective Louis J. Deck, loving father, grandfather, friend and mentor, whose life was lived in dedicated and outstanding service to others. As a veteran of the United States Navy, Mr. Deck served our country with courage and honor. As a veteran police officer and detective with the Cleveland Police Department, Detective Deck protected and served the citizens of our community with wisdom, compassion, courage and integrity.

Detective Deck began his law enforcement career in 1967, as a police officer working in the 4th District of the Cleveland Police Department. Just three years later, he was appointed to serve in the Bureau of Special Investigations unit and was soon appointed to the position of Detective. Detective Deck incorporated his street smarts, brave heart, and insight into the human psyche to assist in solving a myriad of criminal cases—cases that sprung from the streets and cases that rose from corporate greed.

Detective Deck's nearly forty-year tenure with the Cleveland Police Department was framed by honor and achievement. Though modest and unimpressed with accolades, Detective Deck's significant contribution to our community did not go unnoticed. In 1985 and 1986, Detective Deck was awarded commendations by the U.S. House of Representatives for his outstanding work as a crime victim liaison. In that capacity, Detective Deck worked diligently to uncover every avenue of assistance for crime victims and their families. Detective Deck's concern for others extended well beyond the bounds of the 4th District. He was a regular volunteer with the Cops & Kids programs at Metro General Hospital, providing a sunny distraction for young patients through his annual transformation from detective to elf. He was also an active member of civic organizations, including the Fraternal Order of Police, the Cleveland Police Patrolman's Association, and the Cleveland Police Historical Society and Museum.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Detective Louis J. Deck, as we reflect on his incredible service to our community as police officer, detective, veteran, volunteer and friend. Detective Deck's integrity, expertise, and focus on protecting and reaching out to those in need will forever serve as a shining example of all that is good in public service. He lived life with a wry smile, quick wit and helping hand, and his legacy of lifting up the lives of countless residents, young and old, will serve as a shining road upon which others should follow, and will forever uplift our entire community. I offer my condolences to his children, grandchildren, extended family and many friends. His life and service to others will live forever in the hearts of everyone who knew and loved him well.