

truly a refuge for our marine world. This refuge would extend seaward from the boundary of the federal national wildlife refuges-with concurrent jurisdiction over those portions also within Hawaii's Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine Refuge—out fifty miles to the boundaries of the current federal Reserve, except that the boundary would be further out past Kure Atoll to encompass newly-identified precious coral beds and monk seal foraging areas. The total area of this precious refuge would be approximately 137,000 square miles, eclipsing Australia's Great Barrier Reef Marine Protected Area of 135,000 square miles.

Under my bill, the Refuge would continue to be managed by NOS through a new Office of National Marine Sanctuaries and Refuges. This is consistent with NOAA's longstanding desire to elevate the current National Marine Sanctuary Program to full office level, and it provides NOS with a management option for marine resources in need of a higher level of protection than that currently provided under the Program. And that office, in managing the Refuge (in consultation with an advisory council including representatives from the State of Hawai'i and the Native Hawaiian, scientific, and marine conservation communities), would be statutorily charged with implementing Congress's purpose "that the preservation of biodiversity and the protection and conservation of the natural resources and cultural heritage of [the Refuge] shall be the exclusive basis for all associated decisions by Federal agencies."

Passage through and activities in the Refuge would be by permit only. Permitted activities would include scientific research and other uses consistent with the purpose of the Refuge. These uses would not include commercial fishing or other extractive practices except in very narrow circumstances. As there are some existing commercial fishing permit holders, my bill provides a mechanism to buy out these permits at fair value.

It is vital to note that this bill is grounded solidly in the cultural heritage and traditions of the indigenous peoples of Hawai'i, our Native Hawaiians. Their respect for the 'aina—our natural world in all its manifestations—in their practice of environmental protection and sustainability, was not just a profoundly spiritual belief but a basic survival strategy. So it is no surprise that one of the principal groups working toward just such a Refuge is Kahea: the Hawaiian Environmental Alliance, dedicated to bringing to our modern world this pu'uhonua for the rare and precious species of the NWHI. And in that same spirit my bill provides, as does Hawai'i's newly-proposed Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine Refuge, for continued traditional use of the Refuge by Native Hawaiians for religious, cultural, and sustenance purposes.

Here is a quick overview of my proposed Northwestern Hawaiian Islands National Marine Refuge Act of 2005:

Section 1: Entitles the act.

Section 2: Outlines Congress's findings, including the finding that the "waters of the NWHI must be set aside as a fully protected national marine refuge to preserve in perpetuity their unique and fragile ecosystems, habitats, and communities of flora and fauna, as well as areas of traditional Hawaiian cultural significance."

Section 3: Sets forth the purposes and policies of the Act, including the provision that "all

human activities in the [Refuge] shall be limited to those entirely consistent with preservation and protections in the true nature of a full protected refuge, and that all commercial use of such refuge shall be prohibited."

Section 4: Provides Act definitions, including Refuge boundaries and cooperative management between federal and Hawai'i agencies.

Section 5: Designates the Refuge.

Section 6: Provides for management of the Refuge by NOS through the new Office of National Marine Sanctuaries and Refuges in cooperation with the State of Hawai'i through memoranda of agreement and in consultation with an advisory council.

Section 7: Provides for vessel presence in the Refuge by permit only; outlines prohibited activities; provides compensation for current permit holders.

Section 8: Provides for enforcement and penalties.

Section 9: Provides for liability and other legal consequences.

Section 10: Repeals prior inconsistent laws.

Section 11: Requires issuance of implementing regulations within six months of enactment.

Mr. Speaker, I confess to speaking on this floor today with a mix of excitement and awe. Excitement at continuing a journey to a next, higher level that is not only novel and revolutionary, but so right. And awe at the responsibility and opportunity we all have to truly preserve and protect one of the most incredible places on this world. I hope and believe that we can all come together to harness the collective aloha of so many for this place, and promptly pass the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands National Marine Refuge Act of 2005.

Mahalo, and aloha!

TRIBUTE TO ALEXANDER
"SANDY" ELLENBERG

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2005

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of Alexander "Sandy" Ellenberg, and to recognize his lifelong achievements and legacy of volunteerism and dedication to public service.

In the Jewish faith, there is a commandment requiring that one give tzedakah, which in Hebrew means an act of "charity" or "righteousness" without expecting anything in return. Sandy Ellenberg was a man of faith, and his life represented a life-long example of tzedakah. Sandy Ellenberg was a good friend of mine and a true pillar to the local community; he was a man of character, compassion and goodwill. He will be deeply missed by all who knew him and were touched by his work.

Alexander Ellenberg was born on October 13, 1933 in Stockton, California—the first child in his family to be born in the United States. Sandy worked his way through the University of California, completing his undergraduate degree at Berkeley and his medical degree at UC San Francisco. Recognizing his own good fortune and the difficulty in achieving one's dreams, Sandy endowed an annual scholarship at Cal for a San Joaquin County student to study medicine.

A successful plastic surgeon by profession, Sandy said that he got the most joy from per-

forming serious reconstructive surgery. Through these operations, he could use his medical training and surgical skills to repair damages, correct congenital disorders and bring hope back into the faces of those who suffered traumatic injuries and disfigurements. Twice, Sandy traveled to Venezuela to fix children's cleft palates and lips with Rotaplast International, a charitable organization sponsored by the Rotary Club.

In addition to his work with Rotaplast, Sandy was politically active and socially conscious—an advocate of civil rights, a generous political campaign donor and patron of the arts. He was a visible figure in the Jewish community: an active member of his local synagogue and a past board member of the Jewish Federation of Silicon Valley. Sandy lived a rich and full life, and contributed to his community in so many ways.

Sandy Ellenberg died on February 27, 2005. On that day America lost one of its quiet heroes. In a world that is always looking out for the bottom line, where a "free lunch" is rarely ever "free," Sandy Ellenberg was a breath of fresh air. He recognized his own good fortune, and was committed to making success, equality, freedom and happiness available to others. His life was an example of righteousness and unselfish giving—of tzedakah.

Sandy leaves behind his wife of fifty years, Maureen, and 2 sons, Steven and Gary. Our thoughts and prayers go out to their family and friends; Sandy is deeply missed by us all.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring the life and work of Alexander Ellenberg, a man whose life exemplified goodwill and selfless giving; he was one of America's true heroes.

TRIBUTE TO SIX HONOREE TEACHERS OF ST. RICHARDS SCHOOL

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2005

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of six exemplary veteran teachers who have combined experience of over 166 years in the teaching profession. In April these six teachers were honored with the Heart of St. Richards Parish award because of the positive influences they contribute to students, families, and the whole community of St. Richards Parish. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring these teachers for their outstanding commitment to our Nation's youth. They stand as a symbol of the positive influences that teachers contribute to students every day across this great country.

The first teacher I am privileged to recognize is Mrs. Kathleen Riordan Pona who began teaching in 1959 with a class of 51 energetic second grade students. Mrs. Pona has served with 4 pastors and 7 principals who have helped her build the foundation that has continued the road of success at St. Richards School. Her 43 years of teaching is a shining light for teachers around the country who are beginning their careers in teaching and struggling to bring success to the classroom on an annual basis. This Nation is indebted to Mrs. Pona and teachers like her who have made teaching their first love.

Miss Joann Gaus began her teaching career in 1969 at St. Richards School and continually

requested new opportunities inside and outside of the classroom to benefit the lives of her students. Miss Gaus had the honor of taking an active part in the parochial education of her students preparing them for both Communion and Reconciliation. She has been a team leader in the teaching profession by being a coordinator for nearly every subject area and representing her fellow faculty members at meetings within the Archdiocesan Council.

Another outstanding teacher is Ms. Josephine Granat who has graciously and excitedly served her students for 32 years in teaching and 17 years at St. Richards. Her concern for her students is matched by the excitement and energy that she brings into the classroom. St. Richards is proud and lucky to have such a great teacher continuing her career at their institution of learning.

Mrs. Rita Zbella is currently in her 29th year of teaching at St. Richards School, where she came and taught in 1976. Mrs. Zbella has proven to be an essential asset to St. Richards where she is currently teaching the computer class, which ranges from 3-year-old preschoolers to 8th grade junior high students. Her commitment to her family and profession is representative of the sacrifices teachers make everyday in their lives.

Mr. Frank Trapani has been a teacher for 28 years, dedicating 20 of those years at St. Richards teaching religion and social studies. Individuals like Mr. Trapani enjoy the feeling of community, connection, brotherhood and sisterhood, and culture that a teacher receives when teaching at a parochial school. As a teacher, Mr. Trapani enjoys the privilege of being able to know his students, their parents, and the community that make up St. Richards Parish. He is truly grateful to have been able to dedicate his life to the teaching profession.

Finally, it is an honor to give praise to Mrs. Pamela Toppings, who began her teaching career in 1984 and has dedicated 21 years to St. Richards School. Her career is a promising one and her experience with St. Richards has been rewarding. St. Richards is fortunate to have a quality teacher as shown by Mrs. Toppings' dedication and hard work.

I am honored today to pay tribute to 6 wonderful and dedicated teachers who have shown quality service to a great institution, St. Richards School.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Kathleen Rioridan Pona, Joann Gaus, Josephine Granat, Rita Zbella, Frank Trapani, Pamela Toppings, and the parish of St. Richards for the many years it has provided services to the community and wish them the very best in the years yet to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2005

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from this chamber on May 10, 2005. I would like the record to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 162 and 163.

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 5, 2005

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the 6 million Jews who lost their lives in the Holocaust. I pay tribute to these innocent men, women, and children who died at the hands of the brutal Nazi regime.

While the Nazis were defeated by Allied Forces 60 years ago, the specter of bigotry, prejudice, and intolerance has tragically survived. The best way to honor the victims of the Holocaust is to ensure that such an event never happens again. Yet, with every year and every generation that passes this tragedy becomes less a reality and more a story to read about in a history book.

Everyone of us shares in the responsibility to make sure those who have died in the Holocaust have not done so in vain.

HONORING THE LIFE OF RAY MCKENNA

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2005

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and dedication of an East Hartford legend and community sports leader, the late Ray McKenna. In honor of his memory, I am submitting for the RECORD a letter to the editor by Don Pitkin in the East Hartford Gazette.

[From the East Hartford Gazette, Mar. 10, 2005]

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

(By Don Pitkin)

TO THE EDITOR: Ray McKenna, the Sports Legend, icon, humanitarian, and more importantly, the friend we all lost a week ago. Much has been spoken and chronicled about his many accomplishments and the giving of himself. Any attempt to try and say more along those lines would be to repeat what has already been stated. Now is the time to try and envision what Ray has been, or is doing, since he left us. It is easily believed that on his journey to his new "Burnside," he is thinking of those he will be joining. How many will there be? What have they been doing? Are there any sports activities there? It soon became clear what he would do first. He would look for his old coach and mentor, Mr. John "Crafty Jack" McGrath. Once arrived it didn't take long. Everyone knew Mr. McGrath. After all, the residents in this area all came from East Hartford. Ray will be surrounded by those he has known for years. After the greetings and reminiscing is over, Ray gets right to the point. Are there any sports here? Are there are athletes from East Hartford around? There are! Who are they? Will you help me find them? And off Ray went with Coach. Ray spotted them even before he and Coach got there. Someone was banging out fly balls for Al Jordan and Johnny Lichatz to chase down. Then it was a grounder to the left of Ed Cox at short. The scoop and the toss to Bill Wood at second and the throw to Long John Gorman at first. It was wide, but John snared it and made the swipe to tag the

imaginary runner. Over there, isn't that Andy Senicrope pitching to Bill Luika? Then it was like they were all as one when they spotted Ray and came to greet him. It was talk, talk, yak, yak for a while. Ray brought up the subject of playing as a team. They were all from the 1938 team of East Hartford High. The only ones missing, Bobby Brown at third and Pitkin in right. Now the vision changes. It is a month later. Someone has filled the vacancies and Coach has found others from his past teams. They are all wearing the knicker length baseball pants. On the front of their shirts it is East Hartford, and on the back, Ray's '38 Team. They look pretty sharp as they work out. Word is that they have joined the Eastern Division of the newly formed Sky League. Yes! Ray had an important role in this endeavor. If any of you would like to see them play their first season, it is quite easy. Walk out into your yard, tilt your head back and look up into the blue. Now close your eyes. Did you see that? Loika threw out the man trying to steal. Just stay like that. This is only the third inning. There is more coming. You all know the rest of this vision. Mr. Editor. If you should happy to be in touch with Ray, please tell him that when I am finished here, I will join them with glove and shoes in hand. P.S. Good Luck guys! Thanks, Don Pitkin of East Hartford Note: Don Pitkin is a graduate of East Hartford High School, Class of 1938. He and East Hartford Gazette Sports Editor Ray McKenna were teammates.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2005

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, May 12th, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall votes on that day.

Had I been present I would have voted the following: "no" on rollcall vote number 169, the Weiner Amendment limiting the number of Urban Area Security Initiative grants during any given fiscal year to 50, and "yea" on rollcall vote number 170, final passage of H.R. 1544, the Faster & Smarter Funding for First Responders Act of 2005.

THE "PRESERVING PATIENT ACCESS TO PHYSICIANS ACT OF 2005"

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 16, 2005

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleague, Representative CLAY SHAW, to introduce the "Preserving Patient Access to Physicians Act of 2005."

This is an issue of great importance to Medicare beneficiaries and to the providers who care for them. Under current law, physicians are reimbursed according to a payment formula that uses the Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR). This formula led to a 5.4 percent cut in payments in 2002. Additional cuts in 2003, 2004, and 2005 were averted only after Congress intervened. The most recent short term intervention—in the 2003 Medicare Modernization Act—will expire in seven and a half