

than ever, and that al-Qaeda-linked groups are growing in number and audacity. We need to responsibly redeploy our troops from Iraq so we can better fight this growing threat.

I initially had concerns with some of the language in this measure regarding funds for troops deployed to Iraq since January of this year. But after examining the bill more closely, I do not believe any provision in this bill would alter funding in a way that would put troops currently in the field at risk. The bottom line is that we must send a clear message to the President that we must change direction in Iraq and redeploy our troops.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION CELEBRATING THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF TITLE IX

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution celebrating the 35th anniversary of Title IX of the Education Act Amendments of 1972. Thirty-five years ago, a college applicant could be denied admission simply because she was a woman.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 changed that. Led by the late Representatives Patsy T. Mink and Edith Green, Congress established a principle we often take for granted today—the prohibition of sex discrimination in any federally funded educational program. The results are astounding.

In 1972, only 9 percent of JDs were earned by women. Today women earn almost half of all law degrees. In fact, I am one of the many women able to go to law school because of Title IX. The story is similar for MDs and PhDs.

There are also, of course, the athletic opportunities. Here too, the change from 1972 to 2007 is astounding. Today, college athletic opportunities abound for young women. And the recent surge in women's professional sports teams could not have happened without the dramatic increase in women playing college sports.

These successes—both academic and athletic—are worth celebrating, as are the women who came before us here on the House floor as leaders of the Title IX movement. In 2002, after Representative Patsy T. Mink passed away, Chairman MILLER introduced a bill that named Title IX the “Patsy Takemoto Mink Equal Opportunity in Education Act.” I have a picture of Patsy hanging in my office. She is an inspiration to me. And I know that if she were here today she would remind us that our work is not finished.

There are many problems still to be addressed. Women continue to face substantial barriers, especially in high wage fields such as science, technology, engineering and math. Sexual harassment remains pervasive in schools and on college campuses. Women and girls' sports teams still do not receive an equal share of resources.

Title IX is as necessary today as it was in 1972.

I am pleased to have over 100 original cosponsors on this bill, including Speaker PELOSI. I urge the rest of my colleagues to join me in celebrating Title IX's successes and in

recognizing the work still to be done in our march toward equal educational opportunities.

IN HONOR OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF TOLEDO SYMPHONY CEO ROBERT BELL

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the Toledo Symphony's own Robert Bell, celebrating his 50th anniversary season. The Toledo Symphony will formally recognize his remarkable achievement on May 22, 2007.

Robert Bell joined the Toledo Symphony in 1956. In his five decades with the symphony he has performed as a percussionist, principal timpanist and teacher. He has been the orchestra's personnel manager, managing director, and in his last decade has been President and Chief Executive Officer of the Toledo Orchestra Association since 1997. The hallmark of his tenure is the design and development of a “music organization characterized by shared ownership.” The Andrew F. Mellon Foundation described our symphony in 2005 as “a remarkable organization that is approaching its evolution with a deep understanding of the community in which it operates . . . the Toledo Symphony is embedded in its community like no other American orchestra.” Robert Bell's innovations and creative style can be credited for this high praise.

Partnerships Mr. Bell pursued with not only the Mellon Foundation, but also with the Stranahan Foundation and the Owens-Illinois Charitable Foundation have brought a financial stability to the symphony which now operates with a six million dollar budget. At the same time, Mr. Bell's efforts have led to a fourteen million dollar endowment fund which continues to grow. Its financial footing has enabled the symphony to draw talented musicians worldwide for its 60 positions and additional guest artists.

At his heart both musician and teacher, the Musicians in Action initiative was developed under Mr. Bell's tutelage. Through it, the symphony presents concerts especially for young people at 300 schools throughout the region. Annually, about 100,000 children benefit. The Community Music Lessons program offers group music lessons for underserved and needy students, fostering a talent these youngsters may have no other opportunity to develop. Music in Our Schools matches professional musicians with high school musicians for one-on-one coaching, rehearsals, and performances.

It has been said that without art civilization is lost. Robert Bell has dedicated his life to taking our civilization to new heights, helping us reach our potential individually and in community. His gift has been a soaring spirit of music and his legacy will be a symphony performing for decades beyond his own half century of service. For his time and talent, passion and inspiration, we are most grateful. I know I join with our entire community in offering congratulations to Robert Bell on his fiftieth anniversary season.

ON INTRODUCTION OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK WILDERNESS AND INDIAN PEAKS WILDERNESS EXPANSION ACT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing a revised bill to designate as wilderness most of the lands within the Rocky Mountain National Park and to expand the Indian Peaks Wilderness.

The bill is cosponsored by my Colorado colleague, Representative MUSGRAVE, and an identical measure is being introduced in the other body by Colorado's two Senators. Over a period of months, we have worked together to develop this bipartisan legislation that will provide important protection and management direction for some truly remarkable country, adding well over 200,000 acres in the park to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

The wilderness designation for the park will cover some 94 percent of the park, including Longs Peaks and other major mountains along the Great Continental Divide, glacial cirques and snow fields, broad expanses of alpine tundra and wet meadows, old-growth forests, and hundreds of lakes and streams, all untrammelled by human structures or passage. Indeed, examples of all the natural ecosystems that make up the splendor of the Park are included in the wilderness that would be designated by this bill. At the same time, the wilderness boundaries have been drawn so as to allow continued access for use of existing roadways, buildings and developed areas, privately owned land, and areas where additional facilities and roadwork will improve park management and visitor services. In addition, specific provisions are included to assure that there will be no adverse effects on continued use of existing water facilities.

The lands designated as wilderness will become part of the National Wilderness Preservation System that was established by the Wilderness Act and will be managed in accordance with that Act and the provisions of the bill. The bill's provisions amplify this by specifying that—(1) no new reclamation projects will be allowed in the wilderness area; (2) nothing in the bill will create a “buffer zone” around the wilderness and that non-wilderness activities visible or audible from within the wilderness will not be prohibited; (3) the National Park Service can act to control fire, insects, and diseases, including use of mechanical tools within the wilderness; and (4) nothing in the bill will reduce or restrict the current authority of the National Park Service to manage the Park's lands and resources.

The bill is similar to measures previously introduced by my predecessor, Representative David Skaggs (as well as others introduced before that), and ones I introduced in the 107th, 108th, and 109th Congress. However, it does include a number of adjustments and refinements that reflect discussion within the Colorado delegation in Congress and with interested parties in Colorado.

Like H.R. 4935 of the 109th Congress, the new bill includes designation of wilderness designation of more than 700 acres in the Twin Sisters area south of Estes Park. These lands were acquired by the United States and

made part of the park after submission to Congress of the original wilderness recommendation for the park in the 1970s, and so were not included in that recommendation. They are lands of a wilderness character and their designation will not conflict with any current uses. On the west side, the town of Grand Lake and Grand County requested that about 650 acres inward from the Park boundary around the town be omitted from the wilderness designation in order to allow the Park to respond to potential forest fire threats. As was the case previously, this bill accommodates that request.

Also like that previous measure, the bill responds to the request of the Town of Grand Lake, Grand County and the Headwaters Trails Alliance (a group composed of local communities in Grand County that seeks to establish opportunities for mountain biking) and the International Mountain Bicycling Association to omit from wilderness designation an area along the western park boundary, running south along Lake Granby from the Town to the park's southern boundary. This will allow the National Park Service to retain the option of authorizing construction of a possible future mountain bike route within this part of the park. Similarly, the bill would expand the Indian Peaks Wilderness Area by 1,000 acres in the area south of the park and north of Lake Granby. The lands involved are currently managed as part of the Arapaho National Recreation Area, which would accordingly be reduced by about 1,000 acres.

As did the previous bill, this bill includes a section that will authorize the National Park Service to lease an 11-acre property (the Leiffer tract) that was donated to the National Park Service in 1977. Located outside the park's boundaries, it has two buildings, including a house that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Park Service would like to have the option of leasing it, but current law allows that only for "property administered . . . as part of the National Park System," and this property does not qualify. The bill would allow the Park Service to lease the property as if it were located inside or contiguous to the park.

Also like previous measures, the bill addresses the question of possible impacts on water rights—something that can be a primary point of contention in Congressional debates over designating wilderness areas. It reflects the legal reality that it has long been recognized under the laws of the United States and Colorado, including a decision of the Colorado Supreme Court, that Rocky Mountain National Park already has extensive Federal reserved water rights arising from the creation of the national park itself. And it reflects the geographic reality that the park sits astride the continental divide, meaning there's no higher land around from which streams flow into the park, and thus there is no possibility of any diversion of water occurring upstream from the park. In recognition of these legal and practical realities, the bill includes a finding that because the park already has these extensive reserved rights to water, there is no need for any additional reservation or appropriation of such right, and an explicit disclaimer that the bill effects any such reservation.

New provisions in this bill deal with the Grand River Ditch, created before Rocky Mountain National Park was established and partly located within the park. The owners of

the ditch are currently working to conclude an agreement with the National Park Service with respect to operation and maintenance of the portion of the ditch within the park, and the bill provides that after conclusion of this agreement the strict liability standard of the Park Resources Protection Act (which now applies to any damage to park resources) will not apply so long as the ditch is operated and maintained in accordance with the agreement. The owners of the ditch would remain liable for damage to park resources caused by negligence or intentional acts, and the bill specifies that it will not limit or otherwise affect the liability of any individual or entity for damages to, loss of, or injury to any park resource resulting from any cause of event occurring before the bill's enactment. In addition, the bill specifies that its enactment will not restrict or otherwise affect any activity relating to the monitoring, operation, maintenance, repair, replacement, or use of the ditch that was authorized or approved by the National Park Service as of the date of the bill's enactment. And the bill also provides that use of water transported by the ditch for a main purpose (or main purposes) other than irrigation will not terminate or adversely affect the ditch's right-of-way.

Madam Speaker, the matters dealt with in this bill have a long history. The wilderness designations are based on National Park Service recommendations presented to Congress by President Richard Nixon. That they have not been acted on before this reflects the difficult history of wilderness legislation. One Colorado statewide wilderness bill was enacted in 1980, but it took more than a decade before the Colorado delegation and the Congress were finally able, in 1993, to pass a second statewide national forest wilderness bill. Since then, action has been completed on bills designating wilderness in the Spanish Peaks area of the San Isabel National Forest as well as in the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park, the Gunnison Gorge, the Black Ridge portion of the Colorado Canyons National Conservation Area, and the James Peak area of the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forests.

We now need to continue making progress by providing wilderness designations for other deserving lands in Colorado, including lands that are managed by the Bureau of Land Management. And the time is ripe for finally resolving the status of the lands within Rocky Mountain National Park that are dealt with in this bill.

Lands covered by the bill are currently being managed protect their wilderness character. Formal wilderness designation will no longer leave this question to the discretion of the Park Service, but will make it clear that within the designated areas there will never be roads, visitor facilities, or other manmade features that interfere with the spectacular natural beauty and wildness of the mountains. This is especially important for a park like Rocky Mountain, which is relatively small by western standards. As nearby land development and alteration has accelerated in recent years, the pristine nature of the park's backcountry becomes an increasingly rare feature of Colorado's landscape. Further, the park's popularity demands definitive and permanent protection for wild areas against possible pressures for development within the park. While only about one tenth the size of Yellowstone National Park, Rocky Mountain sees nearly the same number of visitors each year as

does our first national park. At the same time, designating these carefully selected portions of Rocky Mountain as wilderness will make other areas, now restricted under interim wilderness protection management, available for overdue improvements to park roads and visitor facilities.

In summary, Madam Speaker, this bill will protect some of our Nation's finest wild lands. It will protect existing rights. It will not limit any existing opportunity for new water development. It is bipartisan and will affirm the commitment of all Coloradans to preserving the features that make our State such a remarkable place to live. So, I think it deserves prompt enactment. For the information of our colleagues I am attaching a summary of the legislation:

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK WILDERNESS BILL SUMMARY

Wilderness Designation.—The bill designates as wilderness approximately 249,339 acres within Rocky Mountain National Park, in Colorado.

Wilderness Management.—The lands designated as wilderness become part of the National Wilderness Preservation System that was established by the Wilderness Act and will be managed in accordance with that Act and the provisions of the bill. The bill's provisions amplify this by specifying that—

(1) No new reclamation projects will be allowed in the wilderness area; (2) Nothing in the bill will create a "buffer zone" around the wilderness and that non-wilderness activities visible or audible from within the wilderness will not be prohibited; (3) The National Park Service can act to control fire, insects, and diseases, including use of mechanical tools within the wilderness; and (4) Nothing in the bill will reduce or restrict the current authority of the National Park Service to manage the Park's lands and resources.

Potential Wilderness.—Specified lands within the Park not now eligible for wilderness designation because they are being used for purposes inconsistent with such designation will be designated as wilderness when those uses end.

Wilderness Exclusions.—Specified lands within the Park are excluded from the wilderness designation and from the category of "potential wilderness." These lands include—(1) lands occupied by the Grand River Ditch and the lands 200 feet on each side of the ditch; (2) lands owned by the St. Vrain & Left Hand Water Conservancy District, including Copeland Reservoir and the Inlet Ditch from North St. Vrain Creek; (3) lands owned by the Vincentsen-Harms Trust; and (4) lands adjoining Grand Lake in an area called the "East Short Trail Area" discussed below.

Water Rights.—The bill includes findings about Colorado state court decisions holding that the Park already has existing sufficient water rights and that there is no need for the Federal Government to reserve or appropriate further water rights to fulfill the purposes of the wilderness designation; and the bill states that neither it nor any action taken out pursuant to it will constitute an express or implied reservation of water or water rights for any purpose.

Grand River Ditch.—The bill provides that—(1) lands occupied by the Grand River Ditch and the lands 200 feet on each side of the ditch are excluded from wilderness; (2) upon conclusion of an agreement between the National Park Service and the ditch's owners on operations and maintenance of the Grand River Ditch, the strict liability standard of the Park Resources Protection Act (which now applies to any damage to park resources) will not apply so long as the ditch is

operated and maintained in accordance with the agreement. The owners of the ditch would remain liable for damage to park resources caused by negligence or intentional acts; (3) the bill will not affect any liability for damage to park resources occurring before the bill's enactment; (4) the bill will not restrict any activity related to monitoring, operation, maintenance, repair, replacement, or use of the ditch that was authorized or approved by the National Park Service as of the date of the bill's enactment; and (5) use of water carried by the ditch for a purpose other than irrigation will not adversely affect the ditch's right-of-way.

Colorado-Big Thompson Project.—The bill includes provisions specifying that its enactment will not restrict any activity related to monitoring, operation, maintenance, repair, replacement, or use of the project's facilities that were allowed as of the date of the bill's enactment or prohibit or restrict the conveyance of water through the Alva B. Adams Tunnel for any purpose.

East Shore Trail.—The bill requires the National Park Service to identify an alignment for a bicycle trail within the "East Shore Trail Area" that is excluded from the wilderness. The Park Service will decide whether to authorize construction of the trail and until construction is authorized, lands in the "East Shore Trail Area" will continue to be managed to maintain the option of its being designated as wilderness in the future.

Indian Peaks Wilderness and Arapaho Recreation Area.—The bill adjusts the boundaries of the Indian Peaks Wilderness and the Arapaho National Recreation Area so as to reduce the recreation area by about 1,000 acres and increase the wilderness by about 1,000 acres.

Leiffer Tract Lease Authority.—The bill allows the National Park Service to lease the "Leiffer tract," a parcel of Federal land located outside the Park's boundary but managed by the National Park Service that includes an historic cabin and several other buildings. Any lease would be under an existing law that requires leased property to be used for activities consistent with the purposes of the Park and compatible with National Park Service programs.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately yesterday, May 14, 2007, I was unable to cast my votes on H.R. 1124, H. Res. 223, and H. Res. 385.

Had I been present for rollcall No. 342 on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1124, to extend the District of Columbia College Access Act of 1999, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 343 on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H. Res. 223, supporting the goals and ideals of a National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims, I would have voted "aye."

Had I been present for rollcall No. 344 on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H. Res. 385, recognizing National AmeriCorps Week, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING MICHAEL D. THOMAS

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Michael D. Thomas, who was killed on April 27, 2007 in Hirat Province, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Michael was a sniper, a weapons sergeant and a combat medic assigned to the 1st Battalion, 7th Special Forces Group, Fort Bragg, NC, and was killed when his unit came under rocket-propelled grenades and small-arms fire.

I did not have the privilege of knowing Staff Sergeant Thomas personally but by all accounts he was a dedicated family man who was devoted to serving his country. He grew up in Seffner, FL, and joined the military police in 1991, serving in Somalia and in Korea. After already having served in the military police for 13 years and with only 3½ years until he could retire, he volunteered to be a Green Beret. At 34, Michael was one of the oldest in his unit, which earned him the nickname "Gramps."

Michael was a highly decorated soldier. His awards and commendations include the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Defense Medal, the Parachutist Badge and the Special Forces Tab.

Michael was an avid Tampa Bay Buccaneer fan who visited the team's training camp whenever he could. I've been told that he decorated his Fort Bragg room with Buccaneer memorabilia, including signed footballs and helmets. He was also an accomplished guitarist who liked watching movies and going for long walks with his wife, Teresa.

Madam Speaker, my heart aches for Michael's family. He leaves behind his wife, Teresa, his children, Diana and Craig, his sisters, Krista and Cassie, his brother, Jaye, his granddaughter, Alexis, and his parents, Debbie and Robert Kirkpatrick. May God bless the Thomas family and continue to watch over the country that Staff Sergeant Thomas so loved. We shall never forget him.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I was unable to be present on the House floor on Monday, May 14 for recorded votes because illness prevented timely travel.

However, had I been present I would have voted "aye" on H.R. 1124; a bill to extend the District of Columbia College Access Act of 1999; "aye" on H. Res. 223, a bill supporting the goals and ideals of a National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims; and "aye" on

H. Res. 385, a bill recognizing National AmeriCorps Week.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Mrs. MCCARTHY. Madam Speaker, because of illness, I was not present for votes on May 14. I would like the RECORD to reflect how I would have voted had I been here: Rollcall No. 342 on H.R. 1124, I would have voted "yea"; Rollcall No. 343 on H. Res. 223, I would have voted "yea"; Rollcall No. 344 on H. Res. 385, I would have voted "yea."

IN HONOR OF V. LANE RAWLINS
AND HIS SERVICE TO WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 15, 2007

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize V. Lane Rawlins for his 7 years of leadership as the ninth president of Washington State University (WSU). President Rawlins used those 7 years to build a focused direction for the University, linking world-class research with outstanding undergraduate education.

Part of this world-class research has come from the Agriculture Research Service facility at Johnson Hall, a project that I am proud to have worked on with President Rawlins. This facility provides a place for federal and state research scientists to work together with the academic community in support of technology-based research programs in wheat, barley, and grain legumes.

Providing quality education is key to increasing America's competitiveness and creating a skilled, 21st century workforce. One of my first acts in Congress was to introduce legislation that would reauthorize and strengthen the WWAMI program. I applaud President Rawlins for his support of this important program that recruits and trains primary care doctors to practice in underserved areas like the rural communities of Eastern Washington.

President Rawlins has made it a priority to develop Washington State University campuses statewide. In particular, the Nursing Building at Washington State University Spokane will allow students involved in the nursing and dental programs at WSU to start their first year of training in Spokane and participate in the WWAMI program.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend President Rawlins for his outstanding work as the ninth president of Washington State University. I invite my colleagues to join me in thanking President V. Lane Rawlins for his years of service to the University and the Eastern Washington community.