

Little wonder then that business people have been among the voices urging that we designate these new wilderness areas. More than 100 southern Arizona businesses have endorsed the proposal. In giving their formal support, the board of directors of the Tubac Chamber of Commerce pointed out that protecting open space and wild landscapes such as the Tumacacori Highlands contributes directly to a high quality-of-life and is a key component in drawing local business patrons and tourists dollars to the area.

This is the wildest land in the spectrum of the open spaces and recreational lands we have to offer our increasingly urban population. In this sense, I think of these new wilderness areas as lungs for our city dwellers, and as their preserved public lands where they can go to recreate, to reconnect with family, friends, or personal spirituality. And I think of them, too, as particularly vital classrooms. In these wildest expanses of the natural world, we offer our children the opportunity to experience nature in its most unspoiled state and to learn first-hand how the natural world works. Wilderness inspires awe and offers a living, breathing learning environment that cannot be replicated in a classroom. More than 80 professors and graduate students in fields such as wildlife and fisheries, natural resources management, and environmental science have endorsed designation of these new wilderness areas.

These wildest places in the rapidly growing southern Arizona region offer our people sanctuaries—refuges of quiet offering outstanding opportunities for solitude, high quality recreation, and spiritual reflection. Many of my constituents express the great value they place on protecting these wild sanctuaries, feeling that doing so is part of our responsibility in caring for God's creation and fulfilling the obligation we share to preserve such places for the benefit of future generations. This has led both the Arizona Ecumenical Council and the National Council of Churches to support this proposal.

#### KEY ISSUES IN THIS LEGISLATION

As we have perfected these wilderness proposals, my staff and I have addressed two major issues that we are sure to discuss carefully when we hold hearings in the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands, which I have the honor to chair.

First, livestock grazing: my goal is to assure that in protecting these Wilderness areas, we reaffirm the longstanding congressional policy of respecting the use privileges held by local ranchers who have Forest Service permits to graze livestock on these public lands.

This is a common situation in the West, and it is one that Congress understood and accounted for when the Wilderness Act was enacted in 1964. That Act provides that where it was established prior to the designation of an area as wilderness, such existing grazing use shall continue. Over the years, there have been some problems in the practical conformance with this policy by the U.S. Forest Service, prompting complaints from ranchers, some of whom even worked against designation of new wilderness areas for this reason. Our committee has responded to those complaints, and the leader in that response was my revered predecessor, Rep. MORRIS UDALL, the long-time chairman of what is now the Committee on Natural Resources.

Under Chairman UDALL's leadership, Congress adopted very detailed "Congressional

Grazing Guidelines" that apply wherever wilderness designations and existing livestock grazing overlap. Those guidelines bring clarity to the situation, protecting both the legitimate practical needs of the ranchers to carry out their permitted grazing use, with the access and facilities that are necessary, and the public interest in preserving wilderness values. Among other things, those guidelines spell out that livestock numbers cannot be reduced solely due to wilderness designation. In the case of this proposed legislation, I appreciate the fact that local conservation groups have taken the initiative to work with cooperative ranchers holding grazing permits within the proposed area to craft a mutually supportable plan consistent with the congressional guidelines.

The other major concern in shaping this legislation is the international border. These new wilderness areas lie adjacent to the border, so it has been my concern to be sure that the agencies charged with border and customs enforcement have the operational flexibility they need to do their jobs. In carrying out this vital work, let us not accept the false choice between protecting our natural heritage or our national security—we can do both. After all, these will not be the first wilderness areas Congress has designated on or very near the Mexican border, only the most recent.

This is a complex matter, which my staff and I have pursued in detail with both the U.S. Forest Service, which administers these lands, and the Department of Homeland Security and its specialized border and customs agencies. This legislation references the highly detailed 2006 Memorandum of Understanding adopted by Homeland Security, the Forest Service, and other land management agencies regarding operations within wilderness areas and other public lands.

#### WHY WE PRESERVE WILDERNESS

Finally, Madam Speaker, I would like to comment on one of the more philosophical reasons that preserving areas like those proposed in the Tumacacori Highlands Wilderness Act is so important. Yes, we protect wilderness for our fellow Americans, who today treasure it for the opportunities it provides to hike, ride horseback, hunt, photograph or paint, go birding or enjoy the wild scenery. If we have the foresight to protect wilderness, it will be treasured and enjoyed for years to come by our children, grandchildren and future generations.

But we also preserve wilderness because we recognize the role it has played in shaping our Nation and our national character. The wilderness areas we preserve are patches of the original American landscape, protected to the best of our ability so that future generations of Americans will have the chance to know what wild America was and is still. So that future generations will have the opportunity to explore wilderness, to enjoy wilderness, to test themselves and grow in wilderness as did their ancestors. Wilderness is their rightful inheritance from us and we must be certain that they receive it. The public lands that will be given wilderness protection by the Tumacacori Highlands Wilderness Act represent important additions to southern Arizona's protected landscapes and I am pleased to introduce this legislation to preserve it now and for the future.

## 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

SPEECH OF

**HON. STEVE COHEN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, July 30, 2007*

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

The Southern Christian Leadership Conference, SCLC, originated through the Montgomery Bus Boycott when a courageous young woman by the name of Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat and move to the back of the bus on December 5, 1955. The Montgomery Bus Boycott brought two dynamic ministers together: Martin Luther King, Jr., and Ralph Abernathy. Through the guidance of Dr. King, Dr. Abernathy and Dr. Joseph Lowery, this boycott led to a new phase of a long struggle to be known as the modern day "Civil Rights Movement."

The Southern Christian Leadership Conference, SCLC, is best known for its commitment to nonviolent civil disobedience as a means for securing equal rights for African Americans and other oppressed people worldwide. The Southern Christian Leadership Conference, SCLC, adopted the motto: "Not one hair of one head should be harmed." This motto not only proved effective for the civil rights movement but should be applied in today's challenges in the world.

After the success of the Montgomery Bus Boycott, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference founded the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee and cooperated with SNCC and other civil rights organizations seeking social justice for over 45 years.

I myself have witnessed the power and effectiveness of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in the city of Memphis, when Dr. King and the Memphis Chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, SCLC, and the labor movement organized 1,300 city sanitation workers to go on strike for fair and honest wages and benefits.

I rise today and urge everyone to remember and respect 50 years of good works by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, SCLC. It has been living, fulfilling and perpetuating the dream of Dr. King. Its legacy, vision, and commitment to nonviolent action is highly regarded by this younger generation. The Southern Christian Leadership Conference has not just served the purpose of assuring rights for African Americans but all Americans.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, August 1, 2007*

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, July 31, 2007, I was unable to make a series of votes. If I had been present I would have voted: "Aye," on rollcall vote No. 763, S. 1, the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act; "Aye," on rollcall vote No. 764, H.R. 180, the Darfur

Accountability and Divestment Act; "Aye," on rollcall vote No. 765, H.R. 2346, the Iran Sanctions Enabling Act; "Aye," on rollcall vote No. 776, On a Motion that the Committee Rise.

CELEBRATING THE 109TH BIRTHDAY OF CECELIA M. RUPPERT

**HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, August 1, 2007*

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the 109th birthday of Cecelia M. Ruppert of Pinckneyville, Illinois.

Cecelia Ruppert was born on August 17, 1898 to George and Louisa (Schneider) Ruppert in their home at 602 W. Mulberry Street in Pinckneyville, Illinois. The house, which is still standing, was built by Matthew Schneider for his daughter, Louisa and her husband.

Cecelia was the second oldest of George and Louisa's 8 children. She attended St. Bruno School. While in grammar school, Cecelia took piano lessons and she and her older sister, Magdalen, would entertain neighbors by playing duets on the piano. Cecelia had many chores at home, such as rocking the babies, washing clothes on a washboard, ironing, and peeling potatoes each day.

Cecelia's first job was in Pinckneyville at McCant's General Store, where she sold ladies' dresses and would sometimes go to the basement to fill coal oil cans for sale. At age 21, she moved to St. Louis where she attended Brown's Business College, and took business courses at Washington University. While pursuing her studies in St. Louis, Cecelia also volunteered as a teacher.

After completing school, Cecelia went to work for the Claridge Hotel in St. Louis, starting as a stenographer, and advancing to the bookkeeping department where she learned auditing. She was transferred to the LeClaire Hotel in Moline, Illinois and then was promoted to the Claridge Hotel in Memphis, Tennessee where she served as auditor until her retirement at age 65. After retirement from the Claridge Hotel, Cecelia remained in Memphis, serving as auditor at the Chisca Plaza Hotel until her final retirement at the age of 75.

After retirement, Cecelia returned to the family home in Pinckneyville where she enjoyed the company of her sister, Magdalen Ruppert Mann and the Mann family. Cecelia's sister, Cdr. Margaret Ruppert, NC, USN, Ret., of Pensacola, Florida, would visit frequently.

During her years in business, Cecelia saw many changes and technological advancements. While she used adding machines and calculators in her job, she remarks that now computers have become the primary business tool. Other changes that Cecelia has witnessed involve the expanded opportunities for women in the business world. In 2000, when she was interviewed for The Southern Illinoisian and was asked to name the biggest improvement she had seen in 102 years, Cecelia responded, "That women can go forward in the business world. That's wonderful. Now they can have a job with a man's rank. They can have any occupation."

Cecelia came from a hard working family. Her father was employed at the mill and in the

mines and her mother worked diligently to raise and educate their large family. Even though Cecelia was well ahead of her time by pursuing a successful career in the business world, she always remembered the lessons learned during her childhood, respect all people and go to church on Sunday.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Cecelia M. Ruppert on reaching this milestone birthday and wishing her all the best for the future.

APPOINTMENT OF CHARLIE THOMAS TO NAFCU

**HON. ALBERT RUSSELL WYNN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, August 1, 2007*

Mr. WYNN. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to recognize Charlie Thomas, the President of Mid-Atlantic Federal Credit Union, headquartered in my district in Germantown, MD, on his recent election to the Board of Directors of the National Association of Federal Credit Unions (NAFCU).

For the past 35 years, Mr. Thomas has dedicated his life on behalf of improving financial institutions in America and currently serves as President of the Alliance of Credit Unions and is also a member of the National Association of Federal Credit Union's Region II Advisory Committee. His illustrious experience further includes service as Maryland's committee chairman for the "Campaign for Consumer Choice" as well as the founding Chairman of the CU Auto Loan Network.

As the President of Mid-Atlantic Federal Credit Union, Mr. Templeton has focused on ensuring his members receive helpful, personal service. Through his credit union, he is continuously educating his members on how to prevent identity theft. He also understands that today's youth must be armed with the knowledge to be financially savvy. He is forever trying to improve the direction and leadership that he provides the Mid-Atlantic FCU, even attending the inaugural Credit Union Executive Society's (CUES) Advanced Leadership Institute at Harvard University.

It is because of the good work of Mr. Thomas and others like him that the credit union movement enjoys the success it has today. Such service is the hallmark of the credit union movement and I know that he will bring this dedication to his service on the NAFCU Board of Directors. I wish Mr. Thomas the best of luck in this new role and I look forward to working with him in this new capacity.

THE AMERICAN LIFE SCIENCES COMPETITIVENESS ACT OF 2007

**HON. ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, August 1, 2007*

Ms. SCHWARTZ. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the American Life Sciences Competitiveness Act of 2007. This legislation aims to modernize the Internal Revenue Code so that the U.S. life sciences industry—both biotech and medical device companies—can effectively raise the capital they need to fund

the next generation of medicines and medical devices that will lead to longer and healthier lives for Americans and people around the world. I am pleased to be joined in this effort by my distinguished colleagues on the Ways and Means Committee, Representatives KEVIN BRADY, RICHARD NEAL and WALLY HERGER.

This legislation remedies obstacles to future growth and development faced by the American biotechnology and medical device industries. I want to thank the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO), the Advanced Medical Technology Association (AdvaMed), the Medical Device Manufacturers Association (MDMA), Pennsylvania BIO, the Texas Healthcare and Bioscience Institute and the California Healthcare Institute for their strong support of our efforts to modernize the tax code for the 21st Century.

The life sciences industry promises to be a key growth sector for the American economy. The biotech industry alone comprises nearly 1,500 companies, located in all 50 states, and employs nearly 200,000 workers. The more than 6,000 medical device companies in the U.S. employ over 350,000 Americans at wages 49 percent greater than the average for private industry.

In my own State of Pennsylvania, the biopharmaceutical industry has roughly 30,000 high-wage employees. Additionally, there are more than 120 medical device companies in Pennsylvania, the majority of which are small companies working on clinical trials prior to seeking marketing approval for their products. These companies offer great employment opportunities, providing good wages and benefits to talented, skilled workers. They are important contributors to Pennsylvania's expanding health care sector and often conduct clinical trials in partnership with academic medical facilities such as the University of Pennsylvania, Penn State, and the University of Pittsburgh as well as Drexel, Temple, Thomas Jefferson and the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia.

America's life sciences sector is one of the most research-intensive industries in the world. U.S. biotech companies alone spent roughly \$27 billion on research and development in 2006. There are more than 400 biotech products in clinical trials targeting more than 200 diseases, including various cancers, Alzheimer's disease, heart disease, diabetes, multiple sclerosis, and AIDS.

Small medical device companies are also a leading source of innovation that is providing technologies that address previously unmet medical needs. These companies are transforming health care by providing physicians and their patients with the tools that allow early disease detection, less invasive procedures and more effective treatments.

For all its bright opportunities, America's life sciences industry faces daunting challenges. First is access to capital for development of biotech therapies. Most biotech firms are small businesses with fewer than 50 employees. Because the development of new technologies that can often take 10 years or more and hundreds of millions of dollars to bring a new product to market, these small companies experience years of large cash outlays before they have the opportunity to realize any profit.

In fact, in 2006 the biotech industry generated a total net loss of \$5.6 billion. Despite this, R&D expenditures increased by 30 percent in 2005. For every \$1 of sales in 2006,