

Monte, South El Monte, Whittier Narrows and Puente Valley. Since the San Gabriel Basin Restoration Fund was authorized by Congress in 2000, dramatically increased contamination levels have been identified in the South El Monte and Puente Valley Operable Units. This discovery has significantly increased both the capitol and operation and maintenance costs of the projects. With the cost of inflation, increased energy costs and the higher contamination levels found, the total cost is now estimated at \$1 billion. Significantly, the WQA has a number of treatment plants that are already operating at full capacity with more coming on line in the near future.

The San Gabriel Groundwater Basin covers more than 160 square miles in Los Angeles County and is the primary source of drinking water for over 1.2 million people. Furthermore, natural groundwater flows from the San Gabriel Basin are allowing the contamination to spread into the Central Groundwater Basin, a vast 277 square-mile underground aquifer that provides drinking water to over half of Los Angeles County.

In working with the WQA and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation over the past decade on this regional solution, there is no doubt that this increase is warranted and will be utilized in the most effective way to continue to provide safe drinking water.

I look forward to working closely with the House Resources Committee, and with the new Water and Power Subcommittee Chairwoman GRACE NAPOLITANO, who is a cosponsor of this bill and has been a champion of regional water solutions. I am also pleased to have the support of my colleagues ADAM SCHIFF, HILDA SOLIS and GARY MILLER, who are cosponsors of this legislation.

RECOGNIZING ZACHARY R. BODE
FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF
EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 4, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Zachary R. Bode, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 395, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Zachary has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Zachary has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Zachary R. Bode for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout. I am honored to represent Zachary in the United States House of Representatives.

TRIBUTE TO MR. DALE ENGQUIST

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 4, 2007

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor and pleasure that I stand before you today to recognize the many years of dedicated service of Mr. Dale Engquist. Having known Dale for many years, I can truly say that he is one of the most committed, knowledgeable, and honorable citizens in Northwest Indiana. Nowhere has his knowledge and commitment been more evident than in his faithful service to the National Park Service (NPS), and more specifically, to the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. Dale has served the Northwest Indiana community for the past 28 years, and his service to the NPS has spanned an astonishing 42 years. For many years, Dale has been a constant fixture at the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, and for his efforts, he will be honored at a retirement party on Tuesday, January 9, 2007, at the Lubeznik Center for the Arts in Michigan City, Indiana.

Following a summer position at Wind Cave National Park in South Dakota, Dale Engquist began his professional career with the NPS in 1964 at the National Capital Parks in Washington, DC. From there, Dale went on to serve as Chief Park Naturalist at Hot Springs National Park in Arkansas and then Assistant Chief Park Naturalist at Everglades National Park in Florida. Following his departure from Everglades National Park in 1971, Dale accepted his first Superintendent position at the Biscayne National Monument in Florida. After moving on to other managerial positions in New Jersey and Washington, DC, Dale settled in Northwest Indiana in 1978, where he served as Assistant Superintendent of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore until January 1983. At that time, Dale was named to the distinguished position of Superintendent of the National Lakeshore, a position he has held for the past 24 years. Over the years, Dale has maintained this post, and he has done so with a selfless commitment to nature and to the community. Dale's education, knowledge, and experience with the NPS have made him successful and respected in all of the positions he has held.

Indisputably, Dale Engquist has been extremely successful throughout his career with the NPS. To attest to this fact, Dale has been the recipient of numerous accolades and awards for merit and dedication. In 1987, he was awarded the Park Planning and Design Award for excellence in park design, as well as the Richard G. Lugar Award for recognition as an outstanding federal employee in the state of Indiana. In addition, Dale has also been honored with the 1991 Superintendent of the Year & Resource Stewardship Award, the National Park Service's 75th Anniversary Director's Award, the Sagamore of the Wabash, the Meritorious Service Award by then-Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt, the Polish Cavalry Cross of Merit, and the Chicago Wilderness Excellence in Conservation Award.

Though it may be difficult to imagine where he finds the time, Dale has always been involved in several associations and organizations, including: the Association of National Park Rangers, the Eastern National Parks &

Monument Association, the National Park & Recreation Association, the Indiana Park & Recreation Association, the Indiana Historical Society, the National Audubon Society, and Rotary International.

Madam Speaker, Dale Engquist has devoted himself to improving and preserving the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and serving the people of Northwest Indiana throughout his many years of service. At this time, I ask that you and all of my distinguished colleagues join me in commending him for his lifetime of service and dedication.

TRIBUTE TO MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 4, 2007

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I rise in solidarity with the Miami-Dade County Public Schools on the occasion of National World AIDS Day. Miami-Dade County Public Schools are working hard within my community to provide much-needed prevention information, as well as assistance to those afflicted with the HIV/AIDS virus.

Indeed, the National World AIDS Day evokes once again a special opportunity for the Miami-Dade County Public Schools, my North Dade constituents and the larger Miami-Dade County and South Florida communities to renew our collective and individual commitment to find a cure for this treatable and preventable disease. As we remember in our prayers those who passed on, as well as reach out to those who need our help, we are reminded of the urgency to fight against the spread of this virus. Despite the best efforts of our AIDS-support community organizations, in concert with the Miami-Dade County Public Schools, HIV/AIDS continues to be a devastating disease. I commend our health care professionals, the volunteers from our community organizations, and our schools, who together exemplify a symbol of strength and resilience in a way that combines true professionalism and utmost compassion along the tradition of our stewardship for one another.

The leadership of the Miami-Dade County Public Schools is readily focused on providing the opportunities of outreach information and ongoing education in a way that advances the common good of our fellow human beings, especially those who are suffering from the effects of the AIDS disease.

Despite the strategies and activities that organizations of good-will have utilized to combat this virus, we are still saddled with the fact that the pace of the AIDS infection is staggering. According to recent statistics from the World Health Organization, the past year alone has seen more infection and death from HIV/AIDS than ever before.

Of the estimated 18,371 AIDS-related deaths in the United States in 2006, approximately 52 percent were from the Black community. According to the Centers for Disease Control, Blacks accounted for 54 percent of all new diagnoses of HIV/AIDS. In Florida, HIV/AIDS is the leading cause of death among Black males and females, aged 25 to 44 years old. According to the Florida Department of Health, over half of all people living with HIV/

AIDS in Miami-Dade and Broward Counties are Black.

As we celebrate National World AIDS Day in light of these agonizing facts, we must put forth a much more aggressive and concerted effort to reach out to our communities, teaching our residents about this disease, insure proper treatment for AIDS victims and continue the research needed to bring this epidemic under control. This infectious disease should not be a partisan issue, but should be a commitment for all Americans. We can and we must address the HIV/AIDS epidemic aggressively, both at home and abroad.

I encourage everyone in Miami-Dade and Broward Counties and beyond to get tested; get informed about prevention and get treatment if you need it. Let's all renew our efforts to stop the spread of this dreaded disease and, as a caring community, reach out to those of our fellow residents who are already living with HIV/AIDS. I commend the Miami-Dade County Public Schools for their leadership role in raising the awareness level about HIV/AIDS and encourage school administrators, faculty, staff and students to continue with this most laudable effort.

RECOGNIZING CHARLES C. CROWE,
IV FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK
OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 4, 2007

Mr. GRAVES. Madam Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Charles C. Crowe, IV, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 395, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Charles has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Charles has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Madam Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Charles C. Crowe, IV for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout. I am honored to represent Charles in the United States House of Representatives.

COMMENDING LEE BANDY

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 4, 2007

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, last month, the dean of South Carolina political reporters, Lee Bandy, announced his retirement from The State newspaper. Bandy joined The State in 1966, serving as Washington correspondent and bureau chief before relocating to Columbia. I well remember him giving me a tour of Congressional offices when I was a Senate intern in 1967.

I have known and worked with Lee extensively during my years in South Carolina poli-

tics. While his departure marks the end of an era, I know Lee will continue to exert tremendous influence on the South Carolina political scene.

At a recent meeting of Midlands First Tuesday Club, I presented Lee a Certificate of Achievement on behalf of Congress.

On December 14, 2006, The State's Aaron Gould Sheinin penned the following article marking Bandy's retirement:

AFTER 40 YEARS AND 3,000 COLUMNS, THE
STATE'S LEE BANDY IS RETIRING

Hailed as a legend by colleagues and a mover and shaker by sources, reporter has kept finger on pulse of S.C. politics

Legendary political reporter and columnist Lee Bandy will retire at the end of the year after 40 years with The State newspaper.

Bandy, 71, has been with the newspaper since 1966. He started as Washington correspondent, then served as Washington bureau chief. He moved to Columbia in January 1992.

While Bandy will retire from day-to-day reporting, he will continue writing his weekly Sunday column at least through 2007.

During a luncheon in his honor Wednesday at the newspaper, Bandy told his colleagues, "I've met a lot of fascinating people, and I might add I've worked with some wonderful people. You've been a source of inspiration to me."

As the top political reporter in South Carolina, Bandy often is sought out by politicians looking for a positive mention in his Sunday column. During Wednesday's lunch, in fact, potential 2008 presidential candidate John Edwards left a phone message for Bandy congratulating him on his coming retirement.

During 40 years of writing his column, Bandy never missed a week. He said he estimates he's written 3,000 columns. Each column is about 800 words. That's more than 2 million words, "and that's more than enough for anybody," Bandy said.

David Broder, longtime political reporter for The Washington Post, said Bandy was a legend in the Senate Press Gallery in Washington. Broder still occasionally calls Bandy to get the pulse of South Carolina politics.

"He's enormously generous and helpful and tells you stories you would never hear from any other source," Broder said.

Former S.C. Gov. David Beasley, a Republican, called Bandy his friend and said, "No one has become president of the United States without crossing his path in 40 years, and no one has had an impact on South Carolina government that hasn't dealt with Lee Bandy."

A native of Asheville, Bandy is a graduate of Bob Jones University. He is a member of the exclusive Gridiron Club of Washington journalists. He and his wife, Mary, have two sons, Ryan and Michael, a daughter, Alexa, and two grandchildren, Sophia and Nathaniel. They are members of First Presbyterian Church in Columbia and live in Forest Acres.

INTRODUCTION OF THE BALANCED
BUDGET CONSTITUTIONAL
AMENDMENT

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 4, 2007

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce legislation that will amend the United States Constitution to force Congress to rein in spending by balancing the federal budget.

It is common sense to American families that they cannot spend more than they have—yet far too frequently, this fundamental principle has been lost on a Congress that is too busy spending to pay attention to the bottom line.

Our federal government must be lean, efficient and responsible with the dollars that our nation's citizens worked so hard to earn. We must work to both eliminate every cent of waste and squeeze every cent of value out of each dollar our citizens entrust to us. Families all across our nation understand what it means to make tough decisions each day about what they can and cannot afford, corporate officers are required to act in the best interests of their shareholders when using company resources, and government officials should be held to similar standards when spending the hard-earned dollars of our nation's citizens.

Congress took a dramatic step forward last year when it passed the Deficit Reduction Act. This new law found savings of approximately \$40 billion over the next five years by eliminating wasteful spending and programs. This legislation was an important first step, but it was just that—a first step. Furthermore, the legislation was passed by the Senate by a margin of just one vote and was passed by the House by a margin of two votes, which shows exactly how difficult the task of balancing the budget is—and how important it is to force Congress to do so.

In the 109th Congress, we were fortunate to have a majority in the House and Senate that had an appetite for reining in spending but we still have to make considerable strides to achieve a balanced budget. Only time will tell whether future Congresses will have this appetite as well. However, one thing is certain—if we pass an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that requires a balanced budget, Congress will have to act accordingly regardless of which party is in control in Washington, D.C. This is exactly why I am introducing this legislation today.

My legislation would amend the Constitution to require that total spending for any fiscal year not exceed total receipts and require the president to propose budgets to Congress that are balanced each year. It would also provide an exception in times of military conflicts that pose imminent and serious military threats to national security.

Furthermore, the legislation would make it harder to increase taxes by requiring that legislation to increase revenue must be passed by a true majority of each chamber and not just a majority of those present and voting. Finally, the bill requires a 3/5 majority vote for any increases in the debt limit.

This concept is not new. Forty-nine out of fifty States have a balanced budget requirement.

It has become clear that it is extremely difficult for Congress to agree on a budget that is fiscally responsible. By amending the Constitution to require a balanced budget, we can force Congress to control spending, paving the way for a return to surpluses and ultimately paying down the national debt, rather than allow big spenders to lead us further down the road of chronic deficits and in doing so leave our children and grandchildren saddled with debt that is not their own.

Yesterday, President Bush also highlighted the importance of a balanced federal budget