

the bill I have cosponsored have suggested that it would be better for Congress to pass no legislation rather than to enact this bill in its current form.

I understand their frustration, because I recognize that transgender people face particularly pervasive and severe bias in the workplace and society as a whole and have little protection against employment discrimination under existing State laws, municipal ordinances, or private employment policies.

But although I share their disappointment about the bill's shortcomings, I will support it because I am convinced that H.R. 3685 will improve protections for many thousands of people who might otherwise continue to face unjust discrimination.

Madam Chairman, history shows that legal progress against injustice does not come easily or swiftly.

For example, when Congress and the ratifying States approved the Constitution's 15th Amendment to try to assure the right to vote would not be denied on the basis of race, women were not included—and, although in 1893 Colorado's male voters amended our constitution to include women, other States excluded them until a further amendment took effect. Similarly, since then until the Civil Rights Acts of 1957 and 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and subsequent amendments, it has required repeated legislative enactments to construct the structure of legal protections in place today.

Erecting that structure of protection took longer than it should have, but it would have taken longer still if Members of Congress had refused to vote for good measures because they were not good enough.

And while I would have wished it otherwise, I think that is the choice before the House today.

We can vote to further the spirit and intent of the 1964 Civil Rights Act—which protects against discrimination against employees or job applicants on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin—by expanding it to similarly bar discrimination based on sexual orientation. Or we can refuse to take that step because it is not the entire journey we want to complete.

I want to take that step, although I know it is not the only one needed. So I will vote for this bill.

IN PRAISE OF FREDRICK A. MILLS

HON. TIMOTHY WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2007

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Fredrick A. Mills upon his receiving of the 2007 Lifetime Achievement Award. It is with great admiration I congratulate Frederick Mills on behalf of all those who have benefited from his hard work and dedication.

In 1963, Fred and his wife Venetia, moved to Chelsea when he took a math and coaching position with the Chelsea School District. After 3 years, Mr. Mills took the position of Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations with the Chelsea School District, which he held for 29 years, before retiring in 1995. Since then, Mr. Mills has worked for Chelsea Lumber Company in contractor sales.

For the last 49 years Fred Mills has given his life to the Chelsea community and education. Mr. Mills has been a member of the Chelsea Community Hospital board of trustees, Chelsea State Bank board of directors, Chelsea Village Economic Development Committee, Chelsea Industrial Development Committee, Chelsea Recreation Planning Committee and the Chelsea City Charter Commission. In addition, he has served on the Washtenaw/Livingston and Wayne County School Business Officials Board, Michigan School Business Officials Board, and the Association of Assistant Superintendents and Business Officials of Livingston, Monroe, and Washtenaw Counties. Mr. Mills is an active member at the First United Methodist Church, a charter member of the Chelsea Lions, and was a member of the Chelsea Jaycees. His presence is felt throughout the Chelsea community and across the State.

Fred Mills has seen Chelsea grow from a small rural community to a thriving city, helping along the way to make sure the qualities that make Chelsea a special place to live and raise a family are preserved. Mr. Mills is a true asset to the community as a whole and his contributions over the years will continue to be felt for years to come.

I thank Mr. Mills for his continued support of the Chelsea community. May others know of my high regard for his selfless contributions and service to others, as well as my best wishes for him in the future.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF ROBERT MILLER CRESWELL

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, Wilcox County and indeed the entire State of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to his memory. Mr. Robert Miller Creswell, known to his many friends as "Mr. Bob," was a devoted family man and a dear friend to his community.

Born and raised in Worcester, Massachusetts, Mr. Bob graduated from Massachusetts State College in Amherst, now known as the University of Massachusetts. He was inducted into the U.S. Army on February 11, 1941. Mr. Bob served with distinction as a combat trooper during World War II, dropping into the battlefields of the Netherlands under hostile Nazi fire.

While stationed at Fort Benning, Georgia, Mr. Bob met Grace Morgan, a teacher in Columbus, Georgia. The two married in 1954 and had four children: Barbara, John, Phil and Tom.

Following his service in the U.S. Army, Mr. Bob served in the U.S. Army Reserve until retiring in 1977 as a lieutenant colonel. In 1964, he became reservoir ranger at Lake Allatoona, Georgia. Mr. Bob and Grace brought their family to Camden, Alabama in 1969, when he was promoted to reservoir manager for the Alabama River Lakes.

Hollis Curl, publisher of the Wilcox Progressive Era and personal friend of Mr. Bob, wrote, "I don't know just what Mr. Bob saw as his major achievement, but I believe it is safe

to say that he looked with extreme pride on the family he and his wife, Grace, raised together." Hollis went on to write, "Mr. Bob's tenure as the man in charge of the Corps of Engineers Alabama River Lakes was impressive. Unlike many in similar positions, Mr. Bob was a friend to the community and to the people he served. He knew the role of the Corps and he was a master at abiding by the rules while at the same time helping citizens conform to regulations they might not have understood."

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout south Alabama. Throughout his life, Mr. Bob Creswell set a standard of excellence second to none. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Grace, and his daughter, Barbara. He will be deeply missed by his family—his sons, Philip M. Creswell, John R. Creswell, and Thomas L. Creswell; two grandchildren, Joshua Morgan Creswell and Laura Grace Creswell; four step-grandchildren, Clayton R. Tarr, T. Hester Tarr, Jennifer R. Goggans, and N. Anne Goggans—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

TRIBUTE TO HELEN IRENE MORS

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2007

Mr. LATHAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Helen Irene Mors on the recent celebration of her 100th birthday on November 3, 2007.

Irene was born on November 3, 1907 in Thornton, IA, to Frank and Alberta Arnold. She is one of four brothers and three sisters. In 1928 she married John C. Mors in the world famous Little Brown Church in the vale in Nashua, IA. They happily lived together and had two sons. She was a proud homemaker for her family and loved to sketch and paint during her free time. Irene still lives in her own home in rural Iowa.

There have been many changes that have occurred during the past 100 years. Since Irene's birth we have revolutionized air travel and walked on the moon. We have invented the television and the Internet. We have fought in wars overseas, seen the rise and fall of Soviet communism and the birth of new democracies. Irene has lived through 18 U.S. presidents and 24 governors of Iowa. In her lifetime, the population of the United States has more than tripled.

I congratulate Helen Irene Mors on reaching the milestone of her 100th birthday. I am extremely honored to represent Irene in Congress, and I wish her happiness and health for many years to come.

ALPINE LAKES WILDERNESS ADDITIONS AND WILD PRATT RIVER ACT

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 8, 2007

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the Alpine Lakes Wilderness Additions and Wild Pratt River Act. This legislation builds upon a proud Washington tradition of protecting our public lands and improves the quality of life for many of my constituents and other outdoor recreation enthusiasts from across the state of Washington.

One of the popular glories of my district in Washington State is the Alpine Lakes Wilderness, a 362,000 acre wilderness that straddles the crest of the Cascade Mountains just west of the Seattle/Tacoma metropolitan area. My legislation will expand the boundary of the existing wilderness area to embrace important lower-elevation lands and complete watersheds. In doing this, we are—with a single exception—addressing only federal lands already under the administration of the U.S. Forest Service.

FITTING THIS ALPINE LAKES WILDERNESS EXPANSION INTO A LARGER FRAMEWORK

Preserving our natural heritage of the wildest, most natural Federal lands as wilderness is an ongoing effort by Congress. Set in motion 43 years ago with enactment of the historic Wilderness Act on September 3, 1964, Congress, to this day, has consistently pursued this work in a bipartisan, or perhaps I should say, nonpartisan way.

The people of the State of Washington understand how this bipartisanship works for their lasting benefit. We live today with the benefits of three great national parks. In many ways, Mt. Rainier, Olympic, and the North Cascades National Parks are the anchors of the popular outdoor recreational resources that are treasured by our residents and visitors alike. To these treasures add a wide spectrum of other recreational areas on our public lands, including wilderness areas that have received this highest form of federal protection from Congress. It is fair to say that every one of these conservation achievements—as proud a record as any State can boast of—has been the product of bipartisan work by generations of our State's elected leaders.

The honor roll for this proud tradition of bipartisan conservation leadership is too long to recount here. However, two names would be found at the top of anyone's listing—former Senator Henry M. "Scoop" Jackson, a Democrat, and former Governor and Senator Daniel J. Evans, a Republican. It is noteworthy that each was a key architect in the protection of the original Alpine Lakes Wilderness through legislation Congress enacted in 1976. I am proud to follow their significant accomplishment with my own legislation.

THE ALPINE LAKES WILDERNESS ADDITIONS AND WILD PRATT RIVER ACT EXPLAINED

Madam Speaker, my new legislation could not be more straight-forward. It does not propose to resolve every matter that some might raise concerning these lands. But it does complete the fundamental protection that Congress alone can provide for these lands under the proven provisions of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and the Wilderness Act.

First, I want to stress that this legislation is limited solely to lands within the Eighth Congressional District. It only concerns that portion of the existing Alpine Lakes Wilderness boundary which is within my district.

Second, as with the Wild Sky Wilderness Act passed by this House earlier this year, a key objective of this proposal is to provide the protection of the Wilderness Act for lower elevation lands. This serves several goals. It will bring into an expanded Alpine Lakes Wilderness a richer diversity of ecosystems, including deeply forested valleys, increasing the biodiversity of the overall wilderness area. And addition of these lower elevation lands has the direct effect of protecting a broader array of outdoor recreational opportunities easily accessible for our people.

Third, a key element of this legislation is the designation of the entirety of the Pratt River, from its headwaters within the existing 1976 boundary of the Alpine Lakes Wilderness to its confluence with the Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie River, as a "wild river" pursuant to the 1968 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Obviously, there are huge benefits from assuring strongest protection and consistent management embracing entire watersheds where we have the chance. This legislation will complete that job for the Pratt River, with "wild river" protection for its full length, and inclusion of its entire watershed within the expanded Alpine Lakes Wilderness.

Finally, this legislation includes a specific provision addressing the best future management of two small tracts of lands that are presently owned by the State of Washington through its Department of Natural Resources. I believe that the State agrees with local outdoor and conservation organizations that there are good reasons that the boundary of the additions to the federal Alpine Lakes Wilderness should include these two tracts, as has often been done before, and as was contemplated under the provisions of section 5 of the 1964 Wilderness Act. Though these tracts are within the boundary of the proposed federal wilderness area, these State lands would not become subject to Forest Service administration or the provisions of the Wilderness Act unless and until they are acquired by the Forest Service.

And, Madam Speaker, that is all that this new legislation proposes. It represents a straight-forward approach to complete the work of Congress for the protection of these key lands and waters in ways that only we in Congress can confer.

As I noted earlier, this legislation specifically does not seek to address or resolve every issue about details of the management of these lands that are, within the framework of the wilderness and wild river designations, properly left to the professional discretion of the Forest Service. A good example is the question of completing of a trail segment within the proposed wilderness that is referred to as "the Pratt Connector." User groups, conservation leaders, and others interested in this area have varying views about the merits of this proposed trail segment. Under the Forest Service's existing authority this decision is best left to the consultative processes the Forest Service routinely follows in such cases. Thus, there is no need for this matter to come to Congress as part of this legislation.

BACKYARD WILDERNESS

Madam Speaker, the Alpine Lakes Wilderness is one of the treasures of Washington

State. It reaches from icy and isolated mountain peaks down to deep valleys covered by silent forests where visitors are reminded of the original landscape of so much of our state. It is a recreational treasure, too, with the existing wilderness area anchoring a spectrum of recreational opportunities, not only within its boundaries but in the surrounding area. And all of this, on its western side, situated so near to the Seattle/Tacoma metropolitan area that this special place is affectionately known as our "backyard wilderness."

The statutory protection proposed in this legislation for the additional wilderness lands and for the Pratt River will enhance the overall fabric of protection and public use opportunities of the Alpine Lakes area. Like other wilderness areas Congress has established literally at the city limits of major urban area—Salt Lake City, Albuquerque, Tucson, and greater Los Angeles, for example—we should act now to assure we have used the strongest policy tools in our nature-protection toolkit to conserve and protect the wild jewel that is the centerpiece of a beloved, much-used landscape for our people.

These wilderness additions, and the protection of the Pratt River "fit" into the larger pattern we have been putting in place to protect our wild heritage. And this wilderness will serve vast, untold numbers of Americans.

First, it serves those who choose to adventure into its quiet valleys and up to its sentinel peaks. Some of those are hardy mountain climbers; for others the adventure is an afternoon walk, grandparents introducing their grandchildren to nature and its most wild and inviting along a quiet, easy wilderness trail.

Second, this expanded wilderness serves those who choose other forms of recreation in the adjacent lands. Mountain bikers find challenges along trails that bring them along the wilderness boundary.

A perfect example, where I walked with avid mountain bikers and other conservationists, is the trail along the Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie River. This trail is not within the wilderness, but closely follows its boundary. By an historic agreement worked out between user groups, bicycles are allowed on this trail adjacent to the proposed wilderness addition on alternate days, so that those hikers who seek a trail experience without encountering bicyclists know they can do so on specific days. Here is an innovative resolution to what might otherwise have been a festering controversy. That collaboration is a perfect example of the broad coalition of supporters for my proposal.

Similarly, we should respect the larger group of wilderness users—and I emphasize that these are wilderness users—who take pleasure from the wilderness that they view from the Mountain-to-Sound Greenway, an extraordinary corridor of protected federal, state, and private lands offering all kinds of recreational opportunities to those who travel across our state on Interstate 90, which crosses the Cascades at Snoqualmie Pass, just south of the Alpine Lakes Wilderness. Those who savor the wild scenery from more developed sites and roadways, are no less users of wilderness than the adventurers who trek to the highest, farther peaks.

Finally, Madam Speaker, there is the largest "interest group" of all—the future generations for whom we act today. As a grandfather, I understand that we have a stake today, in a future we ourselves will not live. That is the