

Similarly, throughout the course of 2006 and 2007, Eclipse Snow Park has also been extensively reviewed by specialty contracting biologists, botanists, geotechnical engineers, wetlands scientists, hydrologists, and archeological investigators. Additionally, an in-depth assessment of ambient and projected vehicular traffic patterns has been completed by a professional traffic engineer. In summary, these studies conclude that the project will not create any significant impacts to surrounding resources and the community further demonstrating the public benefits of this exchange.

Under the bill, the Forest Service will determine the value of the lands to be exchanged, in accordance with the relevant normal appraisal standards, and will have authority to take appropriate steps to make sure the federal government—the taxpayers—will receive fully equal value for the lands to be transferred out of federal ownership. The private landowner—not the taxpayers—will bear the costs of the appraisals and all necessary surveys. And the legislation requires the private landowner to provide unimpeded access to St. Mary's Glacier, on the adjacent National Forest lands.

Madam Speaker, this is a modest but important bill and I think it deserves the support of all our colleagues.

HONORING MR. ARAM BASSENIAN

**HON. JOHN CAMPBELL**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 15, 2007*

Mr. CAMPBELL of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate and pay tribute to Mr. Aram Bassenian. Mr. Bassenian is a constituent from Laguna Beach, CA and is an outstanding citizen who is a shining example of the American Dream. He participates in many charitable and civic activities, including his active involvement with the Armenian EyeCare Project (AECF). The Armenian EyeCare Project, which does magnificent humanitarian work in Armenia, has honored Mr. Bassenian with the 2007 AECF "Lifetime Humanitarian Award".

The Armenian EyeCare Project is a non-profit organization dedicated to the elimination of preventable blindness in Armenia. It was established in 1992 and sponsors programs in direct patient care; medical education and training; public education; and research.

Madam Speaker, Aram Bassenian is a man with a contagious passion for life and helping others. He is proud of his accomplishments, yet humble enough to be grateful for what he has. He is an ardent advocate for the Armenian community both in the United States and around the world. If his plate wasn't full enough already, Aram is one of the top architects in the United States.

I know Mr. Bassenian's wife Terez, daughter Taleene, and son Gregory are extremely proud of his accomplishments. He is a true inspiration to all Americans. He advises young people to "Focus, specialize, and do not be afraid of hard work. Work creates rhythm in one's life by establishing a health routine. For those who pay their dues, the opportunities that America provides are limitless."

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Aram Bassenian today as the AECF Humanitarian of the Year. Thank you very much.

REGARDING OKLAHOMA'S STATEHOOD DAY AND CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

**HON. DAN BOREN**

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 15, 2007*

Mr. BOREN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize November 16, 2007—Oklahoma's Statehood Day and Centennial Celebration. From east to west, north to south, Oklahoma boasts a variety of cultures, landscapes, and opportunities that Oklahomans and visitors enjoy every day. The diversity represented in the State has long been a source of pride for and attraction to Oklahoma. Many Native American tribes were relocated to Oklahoma under force, but have grown to be a vital source of pride and diversity for the State's heritage and future. Furthermore, the land-runs that began in 1889 showed our Nation the power and promise that the lands of Oklahoma held for its inhabitants in the early days as a territory. It was just a short while later, in 1907, that the Federal Government and the other States of the Union fully recognized this and made Oklahoma a State. Those same feelings still ring true today as we honor our State's centennial celebration.

As an Oklahoman, I share a heritage built on the values of faith, family, hard work, and personal responsibility. In Oklahoma, people are our greatest asset. There is warmth in our people that you won't find anywhere else. Throughout many years of hardship, our communities endured because of our "pioneer spirit." The same strength and spirit that enabled generations before me to survive the Great Depression and two world wars, is still alive today. For all of these reasons, I am happy to highlight the Centennial Celebration of Oklahoma.

MRS. JULIA AGNES WASHINGTON BOND

**HON. JOHN LEWIS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 15, 2007*

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I'd like to take a moment to honor the life of Mrs. Julia Washington Bond, a gracious daughter of the South who contributed significantly to the cultural and academic life of metropolitan Atlanta. Mrs. Bond is perhaps best known today as the mother of Julian Bond, the Chairman of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), my former colleague in the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee, and a stalwart advocate for civil rights and social justice in America.

For decades, Mrs. Bond helped form the center of cultural life in Atlanta. She was born in Nashville, Tennessee on June 20, 1908, and attended Fisk University, like her parents before her. There she met and eventually married a young instructor who would become one of the foremost educators of his time, Horace Mann Bond. Dr. Bond led several prominent institutions of higher education as their president—Fort Valley State College in Georgia and Lincoln University in Pennsyl-

vania, and served as the first dean at Dillard University. In 1957, he was named the Dean of the School of Education of Atlanta University, and he and his wife became pillars of the Atlanta community.

In the 1950's and 60's, African Americans, regardless of their prominence, could not stay in hotels or motels in the South. So, when they traveled to Atlanta, they had to stay in homes around the city. As the first lady of many universities and the wife of a leading educator, Mrs. Bond hosted some of the greatest artists and thinkers of the Harlem Renaissance—W.E.B. DuBois, Arna Bontemps, Langston Hughes, W.C. Handy, Jacob Lawrence, Romare Bearden, Duke Ellington and a host of others. Her elegant style and manner offered a unique, intimate atmosphere for students and educators to engage these celebrities and help knit their bond to Atlanta society. She was kind almost to a fault, in the most genteel Southern tradition, and her beauty inspired an iconic painting by a principal artist of that period, Aaron Douglass.

In 1964, she returned to college and received a degree in library science from Atlanta University. During her tenure, she assisted hundreds and thousands of students. She worked in the university library system there until she retired in 2000. The people of the 5th District mourn the passing of Mrs. Julia Bond. She died at the age of 99 on November 2d. She raised three successful children—Jane Bond Moore, Horace Julian Bond, and James Bond. She also had eight grandchildren. She will be deeply missed.

A TRIBUTE TO W. CODY ANDERSON

**HON. ROBERT A. BRADY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 15, 2007*

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize W. Cody Anderson, who has been a strong voice on the radio airwaves for decades. He holds the belief that everyone deserves to be heard, and he has worked hard to make that a reality for people from all walks of life.

He began his career in radio as vice president and general manager of WDAS radio in Philadelphia. He continued on to purchase and operate WHAT radio, and then started a public relations firm with his two sons. Mr. Anderson also worked with Dr. and Mrs. Walter Lomax to make 900 AM WURD radio accessible to the African American community in the Philadelphia area.

Mr. Anderson has also taken the time to travel to several prisons to speak with inmates who have been separated from their families and give them a chance to tell their stories. He is an extremely compassionate individual who has respect for everyone from the top celebrities and politicians to the everyday working man. He and his wife have taken this respect south to New Orleans to help Katrina victims, and across the ocean to Africa, where he was honored by being enstooled as a chief in Senegal.

W. Cody Anderson's friendly and engaging personality and his love of communication have made him one of the most sought after speakers in the Tri-State area and a constant

member of Philadelphia's Top Ten Most Influential African-Americans. I am honored to have the opportunity to recognize him today.

CONGRATULATING STAFF AND  
FACULTY OF INGLEMOOR HIGH  
BEING AWARDED THE BLUE RIB-  
BON AWARD

**HON. JAY INSLEE**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 15, 2007*

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, this week, I was honored in my D.C. office by a visit from hard-working faculty and teachers from the Northshore School District. The U.S. Department of Education has awarded Inglemoor High School with the prestigious Blue Ribbon Award. Principal Vicki Sherwood led the school to this merit by ensuring that students had a high, consistent performance in reading and math.

Inglemoor has been successful in providing a range of educational programs to fit a variety of students' needs. From offering rigorous international curriculum to delivering educational services for students with special needs, the staff is willing to provide creative educational support.

I grew up in a family of educators where my father and four members of my immediate family were teachers. My son followed their footsteps and earned his teaching degree. As a parent, I know what it is like to seek for your kids the best education possible and this passion inspired my public service. It takes a great deal of commitment to provide a quality education. Let us today honor the staff and faculty of the Northshore School District and applaud them because reaching the Blue Ribbon-level of achievement is no easy task.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1429,  
IMPROVING HEAD START FOR  
SCHOOL READINESS ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 14, 2007*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the conference report for H.R. 1429, the Improving Head Start Act, and I am proud to be a cosponsor of H.R. 1429. I would like to thank Chairman MILLER for producing a bipartisan product of high quality. For almost 40 years, Head Start has assisted low-income preschool children and their families, establishing a comprehensive early-learning environment and addressing a variety of social and medical needs. The program has provided services to over 20 million children and their families since its inception in 1965. Currently, over 900,000 children are enrolled in almost 2,600 local Head Start programs. Children with disabilities make up 10 percent of Head Start Children. However, less than 50 percent of eligible preschoolers are served by Head Start and 2 percent of eligible infants and toddlers are served in Early Head Start.

In my district, Head Start has been a tremendous success, with over 1,000 children enrolled in 18 programs. The majority of these children, about three-quarters, are from families with incomes below the Federal poverty line.

Head Start's comprehensive medical and social services provide important benefits to these children. In my central New Jersey district, 91 percent of Head Start children have received basic primary health care and 84 percent have a continuous, accessible source of dental care. The program has also provided mental health services to over 200 children

and assisted almost 150 children with disabilities.

Today's bill provides greater flexibility to serve children whose family income is just above the Federal poverty line, up to 130 percent of the poverty line, while ensuring that serving the neediest children remains the program's top priority.

The conference report authorizes total funding of \$7.99 billion for fiscal year 2010 allowing tens of thousands more children access to the program. This bill addresses a number of problems that have been identified. For example, the bill prioritizes expansion for Early Head Start, which serves children from birth to age 3, so more children can receive Head Start during the critical development years when their brains are growing the fastest. The conference report ensures more participation of homeless children by removing barriers to their enrollment. The bill enhances opportunities for children with disabilities to participate in Head Start programs.

I am also pleased to report that the bill continues to improve the already improving Head Start teacher qualifications. The bill increases teacher qualifications so that 50 percent of teachers nationwide must have a BA in early childhood education or a related field by 2013.

Mr. Speaker, I have seen the effects of Head Start in my district. Children in Head Start in my district are more likely to receive necessary medical services than other low-income children. They are nearly three times as likely as other low-income children to receive basic medical care and six times as likely to receive dental care. This bill will allow these benefits to be expanded and improved. I ask my colleagues to vote for this important legislation.