

Whereas, Chase Huber showed hard work and dedication to the sport of basketball; and

Whereas, Chase Huber was a supportive team player; and

Whereas, Chase Huber always displayed sportsmanship on and off of the court; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with his friends, family, and the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Chase Huber on winning the Boys' Division I State Basketball Championship. We recognize the tremendous hard work and sportsmanship he has demonstrated during the 2007–2008 basketball season.

TRIBUTE TO CHELSEA DISTRICT
LIBRARY

HON. TIMOTHY WALBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, it is my special privilege to recognize the Chelsea District Library on being named the Best Small Library in America for 2008 by Library Journal. It is with great admiration and pride that I congratulate the Chelsea Library on behalf of all of those who have benefited from its commitment to Washtenaw County and dedication to high standards and superior services.

The Chelsea District Library proudly serves 14,000 residents of Chelsea, Michigan and its surrounding areas by providing accessible, reliable, and up-to-date information and technology. Within its impressive renovated facility, the library offers an extensive collection of diverse research materials including books, periodicals, and videos as well as online and CD-ROM databases. Exceptionally responsive to community needs, the Chelsea library boasts abundant success for its targeted outreach programs.

In its fourth year, the Best Small Library award is presented to libraries that serve populations of less than 25,000. The award is co-sponsored by the Library Journal, the oldest publication covering the library field, along with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, which seeks to ensure that all people have access to a great education and to technology in public libraries.

This year's award for Best Small Library in America sent to the Chelsea District Library for its continued excellence in its field. Today this library stands as the pride of the Chelsea community, working to educate all local citizens by providing access to cutting edge resources in a welcoming environment. This historic library continues to serve as a model for small libraries across Michigan and the nation.

Madam Speaker, today I honor the Chelsea District Library for its continued service to the Chelsea community. May others know of my high regard for this library's innovative programs and enthusiastic outreach, as well as my best wishes for the Chelsea Library in the future.

TRIBUTE TO STEVE KICKLIGHTER

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an amazing Idahoan, Steve Kicklighter, known to his listeners as KeKe Luv. In the name of Child Abuse Prevention, KeKe set out to break a world record and stay awake for 175 hours, and I'm proud to say KeKe accomplished this enormous goal.

KeKe is a disk jockey for Boise radio station KSAS–103.3 FM. With the support of his station, KeKe took on the microphone for 7 full days. He only received one 15 minute break every 8 hours, and he accomplished this feat without any caffeine. Why did he do this? The answer is simple, he wanted to create awareness of child abuse, and, like most people, he wants that abuse to end.

Over a year ago, KeKe learned of the death of 4-year-old Summer Phelps. Her tragic death was one of the worst cases of child abuse that the city of Spokane, Washington, has ever seen. A once-happy redheaded little girl moved into her father and step-mother's home, where she endured unimaginable abuse in the days leading up to her murder. KeKe's message is simple: it shouldn't hurt to be a child.

In honor of Child Abuse Prevention month, KeKe took on the challenge to stay awake for 7 straight days to help raise awareness. KSAS–103.3 FM passed out blue ribbons and promoted Boise's non-profit organization, Idaho's Heart.

Thank you to KeKe Luv, thank you to KSAS–103.3 FM, and thank you to all their fans who offered support. I am so proud of your accomplishment, and I believe because of your efforts, the city of Boise and the Nation are ready to take action to prevent and end child abuse.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION
OF H.R. 2016, NATIONAL LAND-
SCAPE CONSERVATION SYSTEM
ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 9, 2008

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Chairman, I am a cosponsor of this legislation and I rise in its support. Its sole purpose and effect is to establish the National Landscape Conservation System, NLCS, as a matter of statutory law.

The NLCS now includes more than 800 units, including all National Scenic and Historic Trails, National Conservation Areas, National Monuments, wilderness areas, Wild and Scenic Rivers, and wilderness study areas managed by the Bureau of Land Management, or BLM. In all, it includes some 26 million acres, or about 10 percent of the land that BLM manages.

As a system it was established in 2000 by an administrative action of Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt. However, each of its units was originally established by Congress or through a Presidential Proclamation under the

Antiquities Act of 1906 and each is managed according to its enabling authority, as well as other laws applicable to various units or portions of units, such as the Wilderness Act, Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, or the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976.

The purpose of Secretary Babbitt's administrative action was to erect a framework to tie each unit of the NLCS together into a larger conservation system, and the result has been to increase the public recognition and understanding of these special places within the array of public lands under management of the BLM.

The NLCS units include significant natural resources, including approximately 12 percent of the BLM-managed sage grouse habitat, as well as important cultural and scientific resources. For example, in Colorado the system includes the Canyons of the Ancients National Monument, which has more than 6,000 archeological sites significant to Native American cultures, as well the Gunnison Gorge and McInnis Canyons National Conservation Areas (the latter of which is named for our former colleague, Representative Scott McInnis).

These and the other NLCS units provide unique recreational opportunities, and their status as part of the system has proved valuable not only in terms of their recognition by the public but also as it relates to funding for their management.

The bill makes that status a matter of law. At the same time, it specifies that any future additions to the system must be authorized separately—as the existing units have been—and that each unit is to be managed in accordance with all laws applicable to that unit and in a manner that protects the values for which the components of the system were designated.

The legislation does not impose any new conditions on use of the lands involved, nor does it affect existing rights with respect to those lands, whether those are related to grazing or other purposes. The Congressional Budget Office says its enactment will not affect BLM's budget because BLM already has permanent authority to manage the lands in the system, subject to amounts provided annually in appropriations acts, and that enacting H.R. 2016 will not affect direct spending or revenues or the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

The bill is supported by the Bush Administration as well as by many other groups, including the Colorado-based Outdoor Industry Association as well as the American Hiking Society, National Council of Churches, Boone and Crockett Club, National Trust for Historic Preservation, and the National Wildlife Federation.

Mr. Chairman, this is a modest measure but one that deserves enactment, and I urge its approval by the House.

TRIBUTE TO ARMER NATHAN
BURKART

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Army SPC Armer Nathan

Burkart, who died of injuries sustained in Baghdad, Iraq, on May 11, 2006.

Specialist Burkart was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 71st Cavalry Regiment, 10th Mountain Division, with which he served in Afghanistan and Iraq. As a high school student in Derwood, Maryland, Specialist Burkart participated in ROTC. He attended Lehigh University on an ROTC scholarship before enlisting with the United States Army in July 2000.

Specialist Burkart always dreamed of a career in the military, following in the footsteps of his two grandfathers, who were both retired Navy captains. He was a devoted husband to his wife, Christy, and a fine soldier.

It is with the utmost gratitude that I recognize Specialist Burkart's heroic service to our Nation.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF U.S. BORDER PATROL AGENT JAROD DITTMAN

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the life and commemorate the service of Border Patrol Agent Jarod Dittman, who died from injuries sustained while on duty Sunday, March 30, 2008.

A Border Patrol agent since March 2007, Agent Dittman was assigned to the Brown Field Border Patrol Station in California. Agent Dittman's life-ending injuries were sustained in a vehicle accident while driving in the early morning to his assigned patrol area in Jamul, California.

Prior to joining the Border Patrol, Agent Dittman served 6 years in the Pennsylvania National Guard, where he achieved the rank of sergeant. While in the National Guard, Agent Dittman served in Kosovo and was deployed to Louisiana supporting relief operations following Hurricane Katrina.

Agent Dittman is the 18th U.S. Customs and Border Patrol agent killed in the line of duty in the San Diego sector. His unfortunate death is a reminder of the danger and risks these officers face as they work to secure our Nation's borders.

Agent Dittman will be remembered for his commitment to his job and country through his service in the United States military and the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol. May God bring peace to his wife, Paveline, their daughter, Angela, his parents, brother, sister, grandparents, family, friends and colleagues at this difficult time.

On behalf of the people of the United States, we honor and commemorate the life and service of Border Patrol Agent Jarod Dittman.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained from voting on April 1, 2008. Had I been present I would have voted

"yea" on the following rollcall votes: rollcall No. 150, rollcall No. 151, and rollcall No. 152.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, April 9, 2008, I was unexpectedly absent from rollcall votes 164, 165, and 166.

Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote 164, H. Res. 1084, ordering the previous question on H.R. 2016, to establish the National Landscape Conservation System, and for other purposes.

On rollcall 165, on agreeing to H. Res. 1084, the Rule for H.R. 2016, to establish the National Landscape Conservation System, and for other purposes, I would have voted "nay."

On rollcall 166, H. Res. 1077, calling on the Government of the People's Republic of China to end its crackdown in Tibet and to enter into a substantive dialogue with His Holiness the Dalai Lama to find a negotiated solution that respects the distinctive language, culture, religious identity, and fundamental freedom of all Tibetans, I would have voted "yea."

CELEBRATING THE 120TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TWIN OAKS ESTATE

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, nearly every longtime Washingtonian knows of a beautiful location on Woodley Road, the 18-acre compound known as the Twin Oaks estate. It was built in 1888 by Gardiner Greene Hubbard, founder of the National Geographic Society. The estate's 26-room house in the early Colonial, Georgian, Revival style and modeled after a New England frame summer house, is the only remaining example of that style in the District of Columbia.

The estate was rented to the Republic of China, ROC, Government in 1937 and was later sold to the ROC Government in 1947. In its heyday, the estate was the official residence of 9 ROC ambassadors, who used it to entertain senior members of the U.S. Government, U.S. Senators and Congressmen, including future President Gerald Ford, and other members of the diplomatic corps in Washington, DC. It began a tradition of hospitality and friendship at Twin Oaks that continues to this day.

Twin Oaks was also the place where the ROC's senior diplomat H. K. Yang negotiated with the U.S. administration and Members of Congress to chart a positive course for future relations between Taiwan and the United States, after the termination of official ties between our two countries in 1978.

The product and result of Minister H. K. Yang's negotiations was the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act in April 1979. The TRA set the framework for unofficial relations between the U.S. and Taiwan. For the last 29

years, the TRA has served both the U.S and Taiwan extremely well. We have continued our unofficial, but strong ties with Taiwan. Taiwan, in turn, has become one of the most prosperous and democratic countries in Asia. It is my hope that as we celebrate the 120-year history of the Twin Oaks estate, we also celebrate the 29th anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act this April.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2016, NATIONAL LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION SYSTEM ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Chairman, today I am pleased to rise in support of the National Landscape Conservation System Act. This bipartisan legislation, supported by the National Wildlife Federation, EarthJustice, The Nature Conservancy, Sierra Club and more, would officially establish America's newest conservation system. With 26 million acres of land under its jurisdiction, the National Landscape Conservation System, NLCS, protects our nation's crown jewels.

From the Lewis and Clarke National Historic Trail to Nevada's Red Rock Canyon, this legislation works to conserve the fabric of the West. In 2000, the Secretary of the Interior established the National Landscape Conservation System to protect the best of the lands and waters managed by the Bureau of Land Management. This bill provides statutory recognition of the existing National Landscape Conservation System as well as its permanent establishment as a land conservation system equivalent to that of the National Park Service. At no cost to the taxpayer, Congress has the opportunity to protect these lands for millions of Americans for generations to come.

Nothing in this legislation changes the way in which NLCS lands are currently administered, including hunting and recreation management. H.R. 2016 adds no land to NCLS, nor does it contain any provisions diminishing private property rights. Following in Theodore Roosevelt's footsteps, I strongly encourage my colleagues to join me in passing this landmark legislation.

IN RECOGNITION OF MRS.

KATHLEEN WILBUR

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to recognize Mrs. Kathleen Wilbur, who is being honored with the renaming of the Range Hill Elementary School to Kathleen H. Wilbur Elementary School. Kathleen was selected for this honor because of her dedication and service to the Delaware public school system for the last 48 years.

Kathleen has been instrumental throughout her years of service to the Delaware public