

Assembly District which covers parts of Los Angeles. Assemblywoman Bass's leadership skills were recognized early on, as she was selected in her first term to the influential position of Assembly Majority Whip. In her second term, Assemblywoman Bass was elevated to the powerful post of Assembly Majority Leader. During her first two terms in the State Assembly, Speaker-elect Bass had 17 of her bills signed into law by Governor Schwarzenegger on issues ranging from foster care reform to children's health insurance.

Before entering elected office, Speaker-elect Bass founded and ran the Community Coalition, a community based nonprofit organization in South Los Angeles. As Executive Director, she built the Community Coalition into an important social justice organization that empowered residents and helped clean up neighborhoods ravaged by the crack cocaine epidemic. Today, the organization is considered a model of community engagement throughout the country.

Speaker-elect Bass grew up in the Venice/Fairfax area of Los Angeles, California. She is the daughter of DeWitt and Wilhelmina Bass. Her father worked as a mail carrier and her mother was a full-time stay-at-home mom who raised four children. Speaker-elect Bass is a graduate of Hamilton High School, received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Health Sciences from Cal State Dominguez Hills and has a Physician Assistant Certificate from the University of Southern California School of Medicine.

Within a matter of a few short years, Speaker-elect Bass went from being a community organizer to an elected official, and beginning next week, will be one of the most influential legislative leaders in the largest State in the country. Her rapid ascension is a testament to not only her leadership skills, but also to her dedication to the people that she serves.

On behalf of all 34 members of the California Democratic Congressional Delegation, I congratulate Speaker-elect Bass on her historic election and look forward to working with the new Assembly Speaker as we move forward together to address the issues facing the State of California.

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INTRODUCING A BILL TO AUTHORIZE APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE NATIONAL TROPICAL BOTANICAL GARDEN

**HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill authorizing appropriations for the National Tropical Botanical Garden. This is a companion to S. 2220, which was introduced by Senator DANIEL K. AKAKA and cosponsored by Senators DANIEL K. INOUE, BILL NELSON, and MEL MARTINEZ. S. 2220 was approved by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on April 10, 2008. I am joined in introducing this bill by Congressman NEIL ABERCROMBIE of Hawaii and Congresswoman ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN of Florida.

The Pacific Tropical Botanical Garden was chartered by Congress in 1964; it was renamed the National Tropical Botanical Garden in 1988 through an Act of Congress. The pur-

poses of the garden as set forth in the 1964 charter was to: establish, develop, operate and maintain an education and scientific center with libraries, herbaria, laboratories and museums appropriate and necessary for encouraging and conducting research in basic and applied tropical botany; foster and encourage fundamental research with respect to tropical plant life and to encourage research and study of the uses of tropical flora in agriculture, forestry, horticulture, medicine and other sciences; disseminate through publications and other media the knowledge acquired at the gardens relative to basic and applied tropical botany; collect and cultivate tropical flora of every nature and origin and to preserve for the people of the United States species of tropical plant life threatened with extinction; and provide a beneficial facility that will contribute to the education, instruction, and recreation of the people of the United States.

Although its charter does not include authorization of appropriations, the National Tropical Botanical Garden has endeavored, with notable success, to live up to the goals set forth in its charter. Its work has been almost exclusively supported by private donations from individuals and foundations. Operating support of nearly \$100 million has been provided through donations in the 43 years of the Garden's existence; assets valued at \$50 million, including endowments, trusts, land, buildings, and rare books are owned by the Garden. During its 43 years, the Garden has received less than \$5 million in federal grants and contracts. The National Tropical Botanical Garden files an audit report with the Senate each year by an independent auditing firm in accordance with the terms of its Congressional Charter.

The National Tropical Botanical Garden manages five tropical botanical gardens and three preserves, which comprise 1,800 acres. Four of the gardens and the three preserves are in Hawaii's second Congressional District, which I represent. One of the gardens is located in Congresswoman ROS-LEHTINEN's district in Florida. More than a collection of beautiful and rare plants, the National Tropical Botanical Garden also has important research and educational facilities. These include the Loy McCandless Marks Botanical Library, the largest and most important botanical/horticultural library collection in Hawaii, and a major regional herbarium used by scientists throughout the world.

The Garden conducts world-class, state-of-the-art tropical biodiversity research and conservation, which distinguishes it from display-oriented gardens and parks in the United States and abroad. The Garden has extensive national and international alliances with botanical gardens, universities, and research centers. It has a visiting scientist program and the library is used by a wide array of scientists, including federal researchers. However, these facilities badly need to be updated. The Garden has a plan to construct a new Botanical Research Center. Such a Center would bring the Garden's significant botanical, research, and rare book libraries and its unique and important herbarium collections together under one roof, along with research laboratories, offices, and dedicated space for students and visiting researchers.

The Garden's research focuses on field research, including discovering new species; documenting and conserving ecosystems, en-

dangered species, and cultural knowledge; and addressing invasive species and restoration ecology issues. Its scientists are involved in a number of international science programs focused primarily on the Pacific Islands.

Some 90 percent of all biodiversity exists in the tropics. Hawaii, the only U.S. State in the tropics, is home to more endangered plants and animals than any other State. This is due to the high percentage of unique, endemic species that evolved because of Hawaii's geographic isolation and their susceptibility to the impacts of aggressive nonnative species and diseases. However, over the past 30 years, the National Tropical Botanical Garden has rediscovered some two dozen species that were thought to be extinct and discovered 30 new species previously unknown to science. Many of the species that the Garden is working to preserve and protect hold promise for the future development of drugs to cure diseases. The Garden's research teams conduct ethnobotanical research to study and document how indigenous people used plants. Ethnobotanical fieldwork is augmented by laboratory studies using state-of-the-art technology to determine a plant's molecular composition and medicinal properties. This research has yielded potential new anti-HIV medication and provided clues to the genesis of ALS and Parkinson's disease.

While the National Tropical Botanical Garden has achieved much over the past four decades, there is so much work that is needed. Although the primary support for the Garden will always be private funding, it is fitting that we have an opportunity to appropriate funds to support this institution in achieving its Congressional Charter. Our bill authorizes annual appropriations up to \$500,000 for operation and maintenance expenses. The 2008 budget for the Garden is \$9 million, 95 percent of which will be provided from private sources.

I invite all of my colleagues to come to Hawaii or Florida to visit the National Tropical Botanical Garden and to observe firsthand the important conservation and research activities taking place. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

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A TRIBUTE TO PHILMORE GRAHAM

**HON. GEORGE MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 8, 2008*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today and invite my colleagues to join me in honoring Philmore Graham, of Vallejo, California, for his many years of service to our Nation and our community. Mr. Graham has provided remarkable leadership to our young people during his lifetime, especially by founding and then expanding the Continentals of Omega Boys and Girls Club.

Philmore Graham, the ninth of ten siblings, was born August 29, 1938, to now deceased parents, John Archie and Louise Graham, in Laurinburg, North Carolina. He attended Laurinburg and Lincoln Heights High Schools and was a well-rounded student with a 3.9 grade point average. He was president of his class from eighth grade through the completion of high school, was captain of the football team, played basketball and was principal for a day.

Philmore's father died when he was age 4 and his siblings and he missed the first 6 weeks of school to pick cotton and help their mother buy food and clothing for school. His hatred of picking cotton inspired him to do well in school because their mother would remind them that their choice was either go to school or continue to pick cotton.

Philmore graduated from Tennessee State University with bachelor of science degrees in mechanical and metallurgical engineering in May of 1962. He has done graduate studies in material science at UCLA and UC Berkeley. He was commissioned as an officer in the United States Air Force through the University's ROTC program. While in the Air Force, he served as a project engineer for the Titan Intercontinental Ballistic Missile Program at Norton Air Force Base, San Bernardino, California, from 1962–1965. During his tour of duty here, he worked in the Materials Engineering Department and developed a number of material specifications for missile components. He received a Superior Accomplishment Award for completing a record number of projects updating the Titan and Atlas Missile programs.

Philmore also worked in the community while at Norton Air Force Base. In 1964, he spearheaded the project to establish a new chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Pi Rho Chapter, in San Bernardino, California. The chapter offered scholarships and social-economic programs to the community under his leadership. He was selected as "Chapter and District Omega man of the Year."

Philmore received an honorable discharge from the U.S. Air Force in August 1965 and accepted a position with Mare Island Naval Shipyard in Vallejo, California, in October 1965, where he directed the Foam Salvage Vessels Research and Development Program. He received a Superior Accomplishment Award for developing an economical method of testing the flotation material in the laboratory rather than the costly ocean testing.

In 1972, Philmore was promoted to technical support branch head of the Nuclear Inspection Division of Mare Island Nuclear Submarine Overhaul Program. He received a third Superior Accomplishment Award for Outstanding Supervision of Training, Technical Support and Records of Naval Nuclear Work. From 1979 to 1983, Graham worked as an internal auditor for the Nuclear Reactor Division of the Nuclear Engineering Department and was assigned as the Director of Training for the department and supervised the training of some 250 engineers and technicians. In 1986, he was promoted to Supervisor, Nuclear Engineer and became the first and only African American supervisor in the Nuclear Engineering Department's history of Mare Island Naval Shipyard. During his administration, the Department received the highest grades to date on written exams during an audit from Washington, DC, and Philmore was awarded one of the highest monetary awards in the history of the Nuclear Engineering Department's incentive awards program for outstanding performance in upgrading the training program.

Philmore continued his work in the community by establishing a new chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity in Vallejo. In 1966, he started the Continentals of Omega Boys Club with six boys; it has grown to more than 500 members and is now called the Continentals of Omega Boys & Girls Club, Inc. The or-

ganization is considered one of the top boys and girls clubs in the country. The club has produced a number of doctors, lawyers, businessmen, educators, engineers, skilled workers, and many other outstanding citizens. Academics is the major focus of the club and more than 70 percent of the membership achieve school honor rolls each year. More than 200 members have attended colleges and trade schools across the country and Philmore and members have received more than 63 awards for outstanding community contributions during the club's existence. When he retired from Mare Island Naval Shipyard, Philmore devoted himself completely to the club, growing it into the valuable asset it is today.

Through the years Philmore was nominated for a multitude of awards and is the proud recipient of the NAACP Outstanding Citizen of the Year, Good Neighbor Award, Salute to America Lifetime Merit Award, Profile of Excellence Award, Martin Luther King, Jr., Humanitarian Award, "Who's Who" among Black Americans, Outstanding Young Men of America and several selections as Omega Man of the year and Citizen of the Year for the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

Philmore has always been active with Friendship Baptist Church in Vallejo, where he served 10 years as superintendent of Sunday Church School and has taught Sunday School for 37 years, including his years in high school.

He was married to the late Jamella Nelson Graham and they have two children, daughter, Deidre LeNore Graham and son, Montoya Reed, both graduates of Tennessee State University. Deidre obtained degrees in English and criminal justice and Montoya earned a BS degree in biology and has done graduate study at TSU in animal science.

Madam Speaker, because of Mr. Graham's devotion to his family, his community, and his country, I am delighted to have this opportunity to recognize his tireless efforts and ask all Members of the House to join me in wishing him well.

#### RECOGNIZING GERRY CUSHMAN

#### HON. THOMAS H. ALLEN

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2008

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to recognize the hard work and achievements of Gerry Cushman, a fisherman from Maine who recently won the prestigious Golden V—Notch award from the Maine Lobstermen's Association, an association of more than 1,200 lobstermen from Eastport to Kittery. This award recognizes a fisherman who has gone above and beyond the call of duty to help preserve the lobster industry. Gerry won this award not just for his effort to protect and preserve the lobster industry but for his steadfast dedication to the entire Maine commercial fishing industry.

Gerry Cushman serves on the Board of Directors of the Maine Lobstermen's Association, is a member of the Zone D Lobster Council, and sits on the State's Lobster Advisory Council. He also works with the Port Clyde Fishermen's Co-op and the Port Clyde Draggers' Co-op: a joint working group to preserve the fishing community of Port Clyde.

Gerry has championed the lobster industry both on the water and on the dock. He helped to secure a \$340,000 grant from the Land for Maine's Future Fund to facilitate building and expanding a fishing pier in Port Clyde for lobstermen and groundfishermen as well as two bait companies. The grant is part of a larger initiative to protect working waterfront spaces along Maine's coast. Working waterfronts are rapidly disappearing in the State of Maine and these resources are crucial to preserve both fisheries and communities.

I have had the privilege of meeting Gerry and seeing first hand his dedication to ensuring that future generations of Maine fishermen will have both lobsters to harvest, and a place to land their catch. I admire Gerry and the men and women who work tirelessly to make certain that the fishing industry and the communities they support are preserved for future generations. I echo Gerry's words that "what we leave for the next generation is important." Small fishing communities across the country are beginning to take a leading role in the management of the fishery resources on which they all depend, and Gerry Cushman is one of the leaders in this effort. I would like to once again thank Gerry for his hard work and I wish him the best in all his future endeavors.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE CITY OF NORCO'S 85TH BIRTHDAY

#### HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 8, 2008

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an exceptional town in my congressional district. The town of Norco, California, was dedicated on May 13, 1923. Founded by a dynamic entrepreneur, Rex B. Clark, and funded by his wife Grace Scripps Clark, daughter of powerful newspaper mogul James Scripps. This 15-square-mile community of Norco began as a California agricultural powerhouse and today is known as "Horse Town U.S.A." Clark's original concept was to develop a community of "go-getters" whereby a man could live and feed his family off the land. With a town motto of "Acres of Neighbors," the dream was wildly successful as Norco brand tomatoes, grapes, berries, lettuce, chickens, and other produce were sent all over the United States.

A chance discovery of hot mineral water in 1926 led Rex Clark to yet another dream: The Norconian Resort Supreme—a 700-acre masterpiece that opened to worldwide acclaim on February 2, 1929, complete with 60-acre man-made lake, magnificent golf course, Lake Casino, hotel, spa, separate chauffeurs' quarters and the only Southern California AAU Qualifying outdoor pool until the 1932 Olympic games. Hollywood flocked to the resort and stars such as Clark Gable, Norma Shearer, Buster Keaton and Joan Crawford were regular visitors at what may well have been the finest resort of its kind on the west coast. MGM and Fox Studios held company picnics on the site as did Disney Studios who held a famous party in 1938 to commemorate the success of "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs".

On May 20, 1928, the lavish swimming and diving pools opened to greet the 1928 USA