

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in remembering Rick Wagner. May his soul rest in peace.

SUPPORTING NATIONAL WILD HORSE AND BURRO ADOPTION DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of our nation's wild horses and burros. These graceful and social wild animals have captured the hearts and minds of many Americans. They are stunning to watch as they roam free on public lands and remain an historical national treasure. It is imperative that we protect and ensure a viable future for them.

Ensuring a strong adoption program for wild horses and burros is one important step toward addressing the current ineffective, inhumane and expensive practices the Bureau of Land Management, BLM, has employed to manage the population. As such, I support this bill and will continue to work to ensure the success of the adoption program.

However, adoption alone will not offset the damage caused by the failed herd management practices of the BLM. Despite efforts to adopt out horses and burros, BLM has more than 30,000 wild horses in holding areas. In October 2008, the GAO released a report entitled "Effective Long-Term Options Needed to Manage Unadoptable Wild Horses." This report affirms that BLM will continue to face budget shortfalls if long-term corrections to current management practices are not put in place. The bulk of these shortfalls are anticipated to result from the current management methods that round up wild horses and burros from Herd Management Areas, HMA, to long- and short-term holding areas.

The BLM maintains that removal of the horses from the BLM lands is necessary to "maintain a thriving ecological balance." However, the BLM has a history of using this statutory goal as justification for failed herd management practices.

When Congress enacted the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971, 54 million acres were dedicated for use by wild horses and burros. Currently, they roam on 29 million BLM acres and 2.5 million Forest Service acres. Additional state, tribal, and private lands bring the total acreage to 34.3 million, a reduction of 19.2 million acres. Approximately 13 million of the 19.2 million closed acres were under BLM ownership and closed to wild horses and burros because of new laws and regulations as well as BLM's own land use planning decisions. This clearly defies congressional intent and shows a pattern of behavior on the part of BLM that reduces the land on which wild horses and burros roam.

BLM's decision to reduce land available to the wild horses and burros is called into question by the facts. A 1990 Government Accountability Office (GAO) report concluded that removals had not been demonstrated to improve range conditions, in part because livestock cause greater degradation to riparian areas and consume higher levels of forage.

Furthermore, the Congressional Research Service states that the extent of damage by wild horses and burros as compared to livestock suffers from a "lack of definitive data on forage consumed and range degradation." Yet there are approximately 33,000 wild horses and burros on 34 million acres of land, while there are at least 6.4 million cattle, sheep and other livestock that graze on 160 million acres of BLM land. The density of the livestock population far exceeds that of the population of wild horses and burros. But BLM continues to argue that the horses and burros threaten BLM's ability to maintain ecological balance.

Recently, the BLM justified a roundup of wild mustangs on the Pryor Mountain Range of Montana and Wyoming with the "thriving ecological balance" argument. The Pryor Mountain Range wild mustangs are reported to have a genetic link to the Spanish horses of the Conquistadors brought to America in 1500. Their DNA makes them a unique wild horse that is a distinct part of America's history.

According to equine geneticist, Gus Cothran of Texas A&M University, who has been studying the wild horse population of the Pryor Mountains for many years, the single most important factor "in maintaining genetic variation in a managed population is effective population size." Genetic diversity is vital to the long term survival of any herd. BLM's decision to roundup the Pryor Mountain Range horses threatens the effective population size which compromises the genetic diversity of the herd.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H. Res. 688 and pledge to continue to work to correct the failed management practices of the BLM.

HONORING THE WHITE ROCK LAKE DOCTORS HOSPITAL ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, today I recognize a valued member of our community, Doctors Hospital at White Rock Lake, and join with them in celebrating their 50th anniversary.

In 1959, Doctors Hospital at White Rock Lake was established with a mission to provide quality health care to the East Dallas, Garland, Mesquite. Five decades later, this full-service hospital continues to pursue its mission by providing outstanding care ranging from obstetrics to acute care for the elderly.

Located in East Dallas, Doctors Hospital's outpatient facilities include a wound/vein center, sleep center, women's imaging center and rehabilitation center. I recently had the privilege of touring their new surgical suites, which will provide a comfortable place for family members to stay while their loved one receives the care they need.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Fifth District of Texas, I am honored to recognize Doctors Hospital at White Rock Lake's 50th anniversary, and I commend the Board of Directors, physicians, nurses and staff for helping to provide quality health care to our community.

OPEN UP THE OUTER CONTINENTAL SHELF

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, investing in American energy resources will create jobs, stimulate our economy, and end our dependence on foreign oil.

Last year, Congress and President Bush announced an end to a decades-long ban on energy exploration off America's coasts.

Instead of moving forward with a plan to explore the Outer Continental Shelf, this administration has stopped progress by instituting an extended six-month public comment period.

Now, Secretary Salazar has indicated offshore exploration may not happen until 2012—meaning a six month delay could become a three-year ban.

Earlier this year, I had the opportunity to tour parts of the OCS and observe offshore oil and gas production.

Madam Speaker, I saw firsthand the need to take an all-of-the-above approach when it comes to our energy portfolio—an approach which includes developing American offshore energy resources.

Remember, putting roadblocks up to stunt energy production now will only mean higher energy prices in the future.

A TRIBUTE TO MR. W. HORACE CARTER

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. MCINTYRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a truly outstanding North Carolinian, W. Horace Carter, of Tabor City. As we grieve his loss, we also celebrate his life and commitment to bettering this world as a distinguished man of words, a warrior against injustice, and man of rare and outstanding character.

As the editor and publisher of a small-town North Carolina newspaper, The Tabor City Tribune, Mr. Carter's staunch opposition against the local activities of the Ku Klux Klan helped quell the expansion of the Klan in the Carolinas. Over three years, his paper ran more than 100 Klan-related stories and editorials that he wrote. They reported and commented on rallies, shootings, beatings and a series of floggings that eventually brought the Federal Bureau of Investigation to the region and ended with federal and state prosecutions of more than 100 Klansmen. Mr. Carter successfully used written language as a powerful tool of social change, and for this he was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Meritorious Public Service in 1953. In 2007, Mr. Carter was bestowed with North Carolina's highest civilian honor when he was inducted into the Order of the Long Leaf Pine.

He was the first in his family to graduate from high school, and he attended the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, where he was editor of the student newspaper, The Tar Heel. He would go on to serve in the Navy, in both the North Atlantic and the Pacific, during

World War II. Without a doubt, Mr. Carter's life was defined by his strong desire to give back to his community and country. Sadly, his life closed on September 16, 2009, but what a joyous life he lived.

Mr. Carter is survived by his son, Russell Carter, who lives in Wilmington and now owns The Tribune, his third wife, Linda Duncan Carter, whom he married in 1995; a brother, Mitchell, of Albemarle, NC; two daughters, Linda Carter Metzger of Lumberton, NC, and Velda Carter Hughes of Greenville, SC, 10 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, during his 88 remarkable years, Mr. Carter worked for equality and understanding, and his immeasurable contributions to the world in these capacities shall never fade. We will not forget the goodness, humility, and passionate giving that defined the life of W. Horace Carter. As we mourn his loss, may God continue to bless all of his loved ones, the work he did, and the greatness that he inspired within all who knew him.

CORAL REEF CONSERVATION ACT REAUTHORIZATION AND EN- HANCEMENT AMENDMENTS OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address concerns over the definition of "coral reef" in H.R. 860, which were raised by the gentleman from Oklahoma, a co-chairman of the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus, Congressman DAN BOREN, during a Committee on Natural Resources mark-up on April 22, 2009.

My colleague was concerned that the definition of "coral reef" inappropriately included references to limestone structures that could have been interpreted to include sea floor habitat beyond what is commonly recognized as a coral reef.

The bill, which was amended and adopted in the whole House by voice vote on Tuesday, September 22, 2009, includes revisions to this definition that better capture the physical structure and biological elements of coral reefs. The new definition also limits the geographic scope of coral reefs to those features that appear as reefs and shoals. In this regard, this new definition makes it clear that areas which are composed mainly of limestone bedrock, such as large areas of seabed on the continental shelf of the Gulf of Mexico, are not coral reefs for the purposes of this Act.

This definition is supported by the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, the American Sportfishing Association, and the National Marine Manufacturers Association and I appreciate their collaboration in developing this compromise.

I am confident that this new definition will provide clear guidance to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in their interpretation of this Act, and I thank my colleague, Congressman Boren for providing constructive clarification of this definition.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "FEDERAL JUDICIARY ADMINISTRATIVE IM- PROVEMENTS ACT OF 2009"

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I am pleased today to introduce, together with my colleagues Mr. CONYERS, Mr. SMITH, and Mr. COBLE, the Federal Judiciary Administrative Improvements Act of 2009. This bill comprises a collection of proposals supported by the Judicial Conference of the United States that will improve the efficiency of operations in the Federal Courts. Several of the proposals have been previously passed by the House of Representatives. Collectively, these proposals are non-partisan and noncontroversial.

Two provisions make minor but helpful adjustments to Federal Court organization. One makes a technical correction regarding the ability of senior judges to participate in the selection of magistrate judges: the other eliminates the statutory divisions in the District of North Dakota to better serve witnesses and litigants, while retaining the current places of holding court.

Other provisions in this legislation create more equity and management flexibility related to Judicial Branch employees. The legislation amends certain retirement provisions for the four district judges in territorial district courts to move them toward parity with other federal judges appointed for specific terms, such as bankruptcy and magistrate judges. The bill will also provide parity for senior officials in the Judicial Branch with other similar government officials regarding the maximum amount of annual leave that they can carry over each year. Also, the salary levels of four senior officials in the Federal Judicial Center are adjusted to again provide more parity with similar officials in the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts.

A few of the sections of this bill facilitate court operations related to criminal justice. One provision will allow for the separate filing of the "statement of reasons" that judges issue upon sentencing, so as to better protect confidential information such as the identity of government informants. Another will ensure that federal pretrial officers will be able to fully supervise and assist juveniles awaiting proceedings in federal court. A third proposal will improve the timely collection and assimilation of wiretap data needed for an annual report to Congress by extending some reporting deadlines. Lastly, an inflationary index would be established for the threshold amount that triggers the need for approval by the chief judge of reimbursements of the costs of expert witnesses and investigators hired in representing indigent defendants.

Again, the proposals in this bill address many of the needs identified by the Judicial Conference of the United States to assist the federal courts and their sister agencies. We encourage Members to support this legislation.

HONORING DR. ANNE LINDSAY AND DR. ALAN GLASEROFF OF HUMBOLDT COUNTY, CALI- FORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 2009

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Anne Lindsay, M.D. and Alan Glaseroff, M.D., two extraordinary citizens of Humboldt County, California who have dedicated their lives to public service. The husband and wife team are being honored by the Humboldt County Democratic Central Committee as 2009 Citizens of the Year for one of our nation's most precious rights—participation in the political system. Their commitment to the general health and welfare of the community and to the preservation of our liberty is worthy of appreciation and recognition.

Dr. Lindsay has served as the Public Health Officer for the County of Humboldt for the past fifteen years. She is President of the California Conference of Local Health Officers, representing 61 county and city health officers from throughout California. She has demonstrated outstanding and innovative leadership throughout years of public service, tackling some of the nation's most difficult public health issues, from homelessness to communicable disease control. She has been recognized locally and nationally for her exemplary efforts, recognized as the 2nd Senate District 2004 Woman of the Year by the California Legislature and receiving the distinguished California Medical Association 2006 Frederick K. M. Plessner Memorial Award for rural practitioners.

Dr. Glaseroff has been the Chief Medical Officer for the Humboldt-Del Norte Independent Physician Association since its inception in 1995 and is the Medical Director for the Foundation for Medical Care. He has led the way locally and nationally in seeking solutions to achieve improved, quality health care. He has distinguished himself as the principal investigator for the Humboldt Diabetes Project and faculty for the statewide diabetes collaborative. He is affiliated with the National Committee for Quality Assurance, is the co-director for the Aligning Forces for Quality Initiative, sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and was named the 2009 Family Physician of the Year by the California Academy of Family Physicians. Dr. Glaseroff has dedicated his medical career to finding ways to improve the delivery of health care.

These extraordinary individuals have been partners in a rural family medical practice for the past 26 years. They share the happiness of family life with their two children, Rebecca Lindsay, a medical school student and Bruce Lindsay Glaseroff, a teacher. A talented and musical family, Anne and Alan also perform with the Humboldt County blues band, the Back Seat Drivers.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize Anne Lindsay and Alan Glaseroff for their unwavering compassion and for their contribution to the ideals and traditions that have made America a nation of hope and achievement.