

camp, hike, hunt, ride, or otherwise use our nation's public lands.

Drug traffickers also are growing increasingly aggressive toward law enforcement officials and members of the public who enter the area in which drugs are being cultivated and produced. They are encircling their plots—some of which have as many as 75,000 plants—with crude explosives and patrolling them with firearms, including AK-47s. In one instance reported last year by The Washington Post, two Lassen County, California, law enforcement officers were wounded by a gunman guarding a grove on Bureau of Land Management property. In another incident, an eight-year-old boy and his father were shot after they accidentally stumbled onto a hidden marijuana grow in El Dorado County, California. One Placer County, California, law enforcement official reported that, “In every garden, every single encounter, we find weapons.”

Moreover, drug traffickers are causing serious and extensive environmental damage to our public lands. Animal poisons are used as are chemical repellants, fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides many of which are banned in the United States. Traffickers often pour fertilizer directly into streams and pools and run it through their homemade irrigation systems. The use and abandonment of these and other hazardous substances—such as gasoline—results in toxic levels of chemicals in the soil, groundwater, streams, and rivers. Eventually, these hazardous substances enter our residential and agricultural water supplies.

I find this situation utterly unacceptable. We cannot meaningfully address drug trafficking on public lands without a comprehensive strategy. Such a strategy has been authorized and developed for the southwestern border and I am firmly convinced that one should be done to better combat drug trafficking on public lands.

The Federal Lands Counterdrug Strategy and Enforcement Act would address this situation by requiring the Office of National Drug Control Policy to develop a strategy to combat drug trafficking on public lands. The bill would also increase the penalties available for cultivating or manufacturing drugs on public land as well as for using hazardous chemicals, diverting streams, removing vegetation without authorization, and using boobytraps or firearms to produce drugs on public lands. Accordingly, I ask my colleagues to join with me to enact this legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 13, 2010

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on June 29, 2010, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to record my vote for rollcall No. 395–401. Had I been present I would have voted: rollcall No. 395, “yes”—On Approving the Journal; rollcall No. 396, “yes”—Congratulating the Chicago Blackhawks on winning the 2010 Stanley Cup Championship; rollcall No. 397, “no”—On Motion to Adjourn; rollcall No. 398, “yes”—Restoration of Emergency Unem-

ployment Compensation Act; rollcall No. 399, “yes”—Recognizing the National Collegiate Cyber Defense Competition for its now five-year effort to promote cyber security curriculum in institutions of higher learning; rollcall No. 400, “yes”—Firearms Excise Tax Improvement Act; and rollcall No. 401, “yes”—Homebuyer Assistance and Improvement Act.

RECOGNIZING COLONEL ROBERT GREENE OF CITRUS COUNTY, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 13, 2010

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor COL Robert Cushing Greene, USA (Ret.) of Citrus County, Florida. On July 24th Colonel Greene will do something that all of us strive to do, but that very few of us will ever accomplish, celebrate his 100th birthday.

Bob was born July 24, 1910 in Keene, NH, he is the fifth of six children, born to his mother, Lillian Francis Greene and his father, Corydon Burton Greene, a furniture salesman. In April of 1931, while still attending the University of New Hampshire, he married his first wife and eventual mother to his three children, “Betty”. That summer he was commissioned into the United States Army Reserve. One year later, he graduated college in the thick of the Great Depression. He took a job working for Betty’s father’s lumber company until 1939 when, he began working as a traveling cement salesman.

In April of 1941, war clouds were gathering and Bob was called up to active duty. He reported to Ft. Benning, GA to receive his infantry training. In August of 1943 he received his orders to head overseas to serve in the Northern Combat Area Command in China-Burma-India during World War II where he served as an intelligence officer. While in Burma, he was promoted from captain to major.

In 1945, at the wars end, many soldiers were trying to get out of the Army, but Major Greene and Betty decided that they liked the Army life and decided to stay in. From 1947 to 1949 Major Greene, Betty and their children lived in Panama, followed by Virginia where he transferred into the Quarter Master’s Corps. He served in the Korean War, followed by two additional posts in Massachusetts and France. In 1961, after serving in two wars, crossing 69 countries and earning two Bronze Stars with oak leaf cluster, he retired from military service as a full colonel.

He served as a civil servant until 1975 when, he and Betty were once again bit by the travel bug. They embarked on what Betty called “the world’s longest bridge game”. For nearly three years they traveled the country in a motorcoach. In 1979, they finally parked in Inverness, FL to be close to many friends whom they had met along their journey together. Betty passed away five years later. Their children, Bob, Sherry and Michael say their parents were, “the very best”.

In 1995, Colonel Greene married his current wife, Lori. His son, Bob, remarked that they

credit Lori for their dad’s enduring spirit. She encouraged him to become a mentor at the Inverness Primary School; He is also a former president of what is now the Citrus County MOAA Chapter. He enjoys spending time with his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, many of whom will join him on the 24th for his centennial celebration.

Madam Speaker, please join me in thanking Colonel Greene for his service and congratulating him on one hundred years of life.

INTRODUCTION OF VETERANS’, SENIORS’, AND CHILDREN’S HEALTH TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS ACT OF 2010

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 13, 2010

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Veterans’, Seniors’, and Children’s Health Technical Corrections Act of 2010. This bill contains many time-sensitive provisions that affect our nation’s veterans, seniors, and children and that have already been considered by the House as part of H.R. 4213, the American Jobs and Closing Tax Loopholes Act of 2010, which passed the House before the Memorial Day recess. I understand that the Senate is renewing their consideration of this jobs legislation. I encourage them to do so—and to do so quickly—as it contains critical provisions to create jobs, cut taxes, and support American workers. Should the Senate face delays in passing that larger legislation, this bill guarantees the consideration of necessary, time-sensitive, and non-controversial health care provisions.

This legislation contains clarifications and extensions under Medicare, Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program. For veterans, this legislation clarifies a special enrollment period to ensure that they can properly enroll in Medicare Part B and retain their TRICARE eligibility.

For children, this legislation clarifies that eligible children’s hospitals retain access to discounts for expensive orphan drugs. Children will also benefit from technical corrections in this bill that relate to Medicaid and CHIP.

For teaching hospitals that train our newest physicians, this legislation makes a technical correction to clarify that residency positions currently shared between teaching hospitals will not be redistributed. In 36 states, this will affect more than 300 hospitals with affiliation agreements in place that are currently using these residency slots.

For Medicare beneficiaries receiving care at a skilled nursing facility, this legislation guarantees that they will be covered under the most current refined payment system.

We pay for this bill largely with funds from the Medicare Improvement Fund. CBO estimates that this bill results in small savings to the federal government.

So colleagues, I ask you to join me in supporting this time-sensitive and noncontroversial legislation pertaining to veterans, Medicare providers including skilled nursing facilities, teaching hospitals, and children’s hospitals.

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF
BOB FRITZ

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 13, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Bob Fritz, as he celebrates his retirement after nearly 40 years of unwavering leadership, kindness and devotion as CEO of Avtron Manufacturing, Inc., of Independence, Ohio.

The son of Dwain and Carolyn Fritz, founders of Avtron Manufacturing Inc., Bob Fritz's parents instilled within him a strong work ethic and values. He graduated from Shaw High School and enrolled at Carnegie Mellon University, where he graduated with honors and a degree in physics. He later earned an MBA from Harvard Business School, where he was awarded a National Honorary Fellowship.

Mr. Fritz's intellect is matched by his kindness, ability to relate to others, and build upon a new vision. Within a few years of becoming CEO, Avtron soared to new levels in the areas of sales, product development, and a renewed focus on the welfare of employees. In the past 36 years, Avtron increased its number of employees from 100 to 400, 95% of whom live in Cuyahoga County. During his tenure, Avtron was honored numerous times, including three North Coast 99 Awards for being one of the best places to work in Northeast Ohio. Mr. Fritz has also volunteered his time as both a member and a leader of several community organizations, including Vistage, an organization of CEOs that focus on guiding, mentoring and assisting struggling businesses.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Bob Fritz on the occasion of his retirement as leader of Avtron Manufacturing, Inc. His devotion to his family, employees, and community serves to strengthen the foundation of greater Cleveland. I wish him, his wife Linnet, and their entire family an abundance of health and happiness as he journeys onward.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 13, 2010

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on June 30, 2010, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to record my vote for rollcall Nos. 402–414. Had I been present I would have voted: rollcall No. 402, “yes”—Recognizing the work and importance of special education teachers; rollcall No. 403, “yes”—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 151 North Maitland Avenue in Maitland, Florida, as the “Paula Hawkins Post Office Building”; rollcall No. 404, “yes”—Recognizing the residents of the City of Tracy, California, on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the city's incorporation, for their century of

dedicated service to the United States; rollcall No. 405, “yes”—To name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Artesia, New Mexico, as the “Alejandro Renteria Ruiz Department of Veterans Affairs Clinic”; rollcall No. 406, “yes”—On Ordering the Previous Question; rollcall No. 407, “yes”—Waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules, and for other purposes; rollcall No. 408, “yes”—To enable State homes to furnish nursing home care to parents any of whose children died while serving in the Armed Forces; rollcall No. 409, “yes”—Providing for an adjournment or recess of the two Houses; rollcall No. 410, “yes”—Rule providing for the consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 4173, the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act; rollcall No. 411, “yes”—Fountainhead Property Land Transfer Act; rollcall No. 412, “no”—On Motion to Recommit the Conference Report with Instructions; rollcall No. 413, “yes”—Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2009; rollcall No. 414, “yes”—Indian Pueblo Cultural Center Clarification Act.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SMITHSONIAN CONSERVATION BIOLOGY INSTITUTE ENHANCEMENT ACT

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 13, 2010

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my fellow congressional Regents, Representatives SAM JOHNSON and DORIS MATSUI, and our colleague Representative FRANK WOLF, to introduce the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute Enhancement Act, which authorizes funding for this institute's important work in conservation biology. Companion legislation has been introduced in the Senate by Senators PATRICK LEAHY, THAD COCHRAN and CHRIS DODD.

While some 30 million individuals annually visit and enjoy the Smithsonian's 19 museums and National Zoo, the Smithsonian's nine research centers carry out important work that advances the Institution's mission of expanding and diffusing knowledge. As one of these centers, the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute, SCBI, is headquartered in Front Royal, Virginia, in Representative WOLF's district, at the facility previously known as the National Zoo's Conservation and Research Center. The SCBI launched in January of 2010 as an umbrella for six Smithsonian units working in a global effort to conserve species and train future generations of conservationists.

The Smithsonian Institution, SI, has a long history of creatively collaborating with strategic partners to advance the important goals of discovering and understanding biological diversity, advancing scientific solutions and conserving wildlife. Toward that end, the National Zoological Park, NHP, Comprehensive Facilities Master Plan completed in December 2008

includes plans to create a campus-like setting for the SCBI at the NHP facility in Front Royal, Virginia, NHP-FR, with space capable of hosting multiple partners who share common goals and are willing to work with SI scientists and staff to advance efforts in conservation biology.

To allow the Smithsonian to progress in its master plan, this bill authorizes the SI to invest \$1 million for each of fiscal years 2010 and 2011 and \$3 million in aggregate for all succeeding fiscal years in order to plan, design and construct an education facility at its Front Royal site. The bill also authorizes the Smithsonian Board of Regents to enter into agreements for the provision of housing and other services related to the facility's programs at no cost to the SI. Finally, it authorizes the SI to use its non-federal funds to plan, design and construct animal holding and related program facilities on the property. The goal is to open the facilities by the Fall of 2012 semester.

The SCBI scientists' domestic and international biodiversity accomplishments span many decades. For example:

Since 1972, SCBI scientists have studied the endangered golden lion tamarins and established one of the most successful reintroduction programs ever attempted. Thanks to their leadership, more than 1,500 animals survive in Brazil's Atlantic coastal rain forest.

Since 1978, SCBI scientists have conducted breeding and conservation research on captive and wild endangered clouded leopards. More than 70 clouded leopards have been born at the SI's Conservation and Research Center in Front Royal, Virginia in the past 30 years, including two born in 2009. Working with Thai counterparts, the SCBI team developed a captive breeding program that has produced 40 cubs. These collaborative international projects serve as a model for conserving treasured species.

Since 1985, SCBI scientists have led the way in developing breeding and management techniques resulting in the birth of nearly 600 endangered black-footed ferrets at SCBI facilities in Front Royal, Virginia. More than 200 SCBI-produced ferrets and their descendants have been released in seven states.

Madam Speaker, SCBI staff has conducted training courses for undergraduate, graduate and professional audiences in the United States and at more than 20 international locations—reaching more than 5,000 individuals from over 85 countries. Supporting the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute's next phase of development will not only expand its notable record of providing educational classes, it will also help ensure that the next generation of conservation and scientific professionals has the necessary training to help sustain a biodiverse planet.

I urge my colleagues to join us in passing this bipartisan legislation so that our Smithsonian scientists can continue to be recognized as global leaders in the field of biodiversity and so that our nation can continue to do its part in leaving the planet in the best possible condition for our children.