

His legacy embodies the spirit of Texans that is so admired and envied all around the world today.

And that's just the way it is.

INTRODUCTION OF EL YUNQUE NATIONAL FOREST PRESERVATION ACT

HON. PEDRO R. PIERLUISI

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2012

Mr. PIERLUISI. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation designed to preserve and protect El Yunque National Forest in Puerto Rico. El Yunque, which is the only tropical rainforest administered by the U.S. Forest Service, is a source of great pride for the people I represent and a major economic driver on the island. Over one million people from all over the world visit El Yunque each year—to walk along its beautiful trails, to sample its eco-tourism pleasures, and to gain a greater understanding of its ecological importance. El Yunque is featured on a quarter released into circulation last month as part of the U.S. Mint's "America the Beautiful Quarters Program," and a public launch ceremony to mark this occasion is scheduled to be held in El Yunque on March 14.

To protect El Yunque's rich biodiversity and to provide a buffer zone against encroaching urbanization, forest administrators need to acquire a number of parcels of land. Thus, my legislation would require the Federal Government to use funds currently generated by activities within El Yunque for investment back into El Yunque for land acquisition purposes.

I hope my colleagues will join me in taking this commonsense step to protect a national treasure.

A TRIBUTE TO PAMELA MADSEN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2012

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Pamela Madsen of Ames for receiving a coveted Fullbright award to study and conduct research abroad this academic year.

The Fullbright Program is sponsored by the United States Department of State, Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs. This program is known as America's flagship international exchange program. First established by Congress in 1946, the Fullbright Program has served the purpose of building mutual understanding between American citizens and the rest of the world. Appropriations from the United States Congress, participating foreign governments, and private sector contributions fund the Fullbright Program. The program has exchanged over a quarter of a million people in more than 155 countries, since its inception. Pamela's host country for the 2011–2012 academic year is India.

To receive a Fullbright award is truly a great honor. Recipients of this award must demonstrate significant leadership potential in their chosen field and are selected on the basis of

their academic or professional achievement. The experiences provided by this program ensure that tomorrow's leaders are both knowledgeable about the world and well-rounded.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent future leaders like Pamela from the great state of Iowa in the United States Congress. I know my colleagues in the United States Congress will join me in congratulating her for receiving this prestigious award. I wish her the best of luck in her studies and future career.

CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF BOY SCOUT TROOP 840

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2012

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I celebrate the 25th anniversary of Boy Scout Troop 840. The troop is located in Coppell, Texas, and has a successful history of developing boys into strong, responsible men.

Troop 840 was founded in 1987 and was chartered by the Coppell Fire Department, where it met at a fire department facility. The troop quickly outgrew the facility and moved to Mockingbird Elementary School in 1988. In 1989, the Sandy Lake Baptist Church took over the charter and provided the troop's meeting place. In 2007, Troop 840 was relocated to Valley Ranch Baptist Church as their new charter organization.

During the 25-year history of Troop 840, the Scouts have had seven Scout Masters. The Scout Masters in chronological order include Gary Brewer, Bob McCarty, Forrest Broom, Terry Tyler, Waid Davis, Chris Witt and, currently, Terry Smith. Forrest Broom served as Scout Master for one extra term between Terry Tyler and Waid Davis.

Troop 840 was recognized with the 2011 Western Star Friends of Scouting trophy for contributing more money to the 2011 Western Star Friends of Scouting Campaign than any other Boy Scout unit in Coppell and Irving. The troop also received the 2011 Western Star Camporee trophy, which it also won in 2006, 2007 and 2010.

Troop 840 is operated as a boy-led troop. The program is focused on leadership, responsibility and active involvement. The Scouts design the agenda and take a leading role in organizing all camp-outs and troop activities. Over the troop's history, it has developed 103 Eagle Scouts and thousands of service hours in assisting the City of Coppell and surrounding communities.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating Boy Scout Troop 840 for its 25 years of developing fine young men and community involvement.

CONGRATULATING LISSA SILK FOR HER DEDICATION TO BRINGING AWARENESS TO DISTRACTED DRIVING

HON. FRANK C. GUINTA

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2012

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate Lissa Silk for all the work she is doing to bring awareness to the issue of distracted driving. As Miss Manchester 2012, Lissa has committed herself to raising awareness for Drive Against Distraction and educating others on the serious consequences distracted driving can have on everyone. Whether it be talking or texting on your cell phone while driving, or responding to another person in your vehicle, the consequences of these actions and lives being impacted is very real and in some instances deadly.

Lissa's interest with this cause came from many personal experiences with distracted driving. Her mother Barbara was seriously injured by a driver who was talking on their cell phone, and Lissa and her sister were also involved in an accident where the other driver ran a stop sign because they were not paying attention.

Working with the Rochester and Dover Police Departments, as well as many High Schools and Driver Education Classes, Lissa has committed herself to educating others on distracted driving by sharing her personal stories. She has also reached out to the nation's Governors about enacting no texting while driving legislation. Our own Governor, John Lynch, will be recognizing April as New Hampshire's official Drive Against Distraction Awareness Month thanks to Lissa's efforts.

Lissa's commitment to educating others and preventing the unnecessary consequences of distracted driving are commendable. I congratulate Lissa for all of her accomplishments and for her outstanding commitment and leadership to this cause. I wish her all the best for continued success in the future.

A TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL KNUDSON

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2012

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Michael Knudson of Decorah for receiving a coveted Fullbright award to study and conduct research abroad this academic year.

The Fullbright Program is sponsored by the United States Department of State, Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs. This program is known as America's flagship international exchange program. First established by Congress in 1946, the Fullbright Program has served the purpose of building mutual understanding between American citizens and the rest of the world. Appropriations from the United States Congress, participating foreign governments, and private sector contributions fund the Fullbright Program. The program has exchanged over a quarter of a million people in more than 155 countries, since its inception.

Michael's host country for the 2011–2012 academic year is Norway.

To receive a Fullbright award is truly a great honor. Recipients of this award must demonstrate significant leadership potential in their chosen field and are selected on the basis of their academic or professional achievement. The experiences provided by this program ensure that tomorrow's leaders are both knowledgeable about the world and well-rounded.

Mr. Speaker, it is a profound honor to represent future leaders like Michael from the great state of Iowa in the United States Congress. I know my colleagues in the United States Congress will join me in congratulating him for receiving this prestigious award. I wish him the best of luck in his studies and future career.

MOTHERS AND OTHERS AGAINST HUNGER YORK COUNTY SHELTER PROGRAMS

HON. CHELLIE PINGREE

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2012

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize an incredible program in Maine, the "Mothers and Others Against Hunger" through the York County Shelter Programs.

The York County Shelter Programs is a homeless services provider in Alfred, Maine, that has been in operation for more than thirty-one years and continues to be an essential part of York County—over the years caring for thousands of Mainers.

Maine is a state that has struggled with food insecurity and "Mothers and Others Against Hunger" is making great strides in eradicating hunger in Maine. Projects like this demonstrate Maine's unbreakable community bond in our fight against hunger in Maine today.

SUMGAIT POGROMS

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2012

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, once again this year I rise to mark an important date that remains strong in the memories of the Armenian and American people. It is always with great emotion that I commemorate the Sumgait pogroms where the murder of hundreds of Armenians stood out as a particularly atrocious event in a long history of hostility against the Armenian people. This anniversary above all reminds us of our duty to act. Year after year, it strengthens our determination to obtain justice and peace.

Beginning on the evening of February 27th, 1988, hundreds of Armenians were brutally murdered, some of them burned alive and thrown from windows. Women and children were raped and maimed by Azerbaijani rioters. Apartments were robbed, shops demolished, and thousands of people became refugees. Despite Sumgait's proximity to Baku, police turned a blind eye to this dire situation, allowing the pogroms to go on for three days.

The truth is that for over two decades, authorities in Azerbaijan have made relentless

efforts to erase all traces of these crimes. This state-sponsored denial is an insult to the memory of all men, women and children who perished on those fateful days; it is a daily affront to their descendants. The Congressional Armenian Issues Caucus is resolutely committed to ensure that those Armenians who lost their lives are not forgotten.

The need for the government of Azerbaijan to fully recognize the Sumgait pogroms is not only in the interest of historical accuracy but also necessary to ensure a peaceful future. The just recognition of these crimes is the first step towards an enduring and peaceful resolution of the regional conflict. Stability in the region is needed now more than ever. The specter of violence indeed still looms and many Armenian lives continue to be subject to threats by the Azerbaijani government. Ceasefire violations by Azerbaijani armed forces at the contact line with the Nagorno Karabakh Republic have shown this to be true. President Aliyev recently announced that Azerbaijan is buying up modern weaponry to occupy the Nagorno Karabakh Republic.

I stand here today to solemnly condemn all intimidations and acts of aggression against the Armenian people. The Congressional Armenian Issues Caucus will do its very best to ensure that basic rights to life, liberty and security are not violated. May the Armenian people never have to fear again such attacks. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues stand with me in recognizing the Sumgait pogroms and the needless deaths of so many.

CONGRATULATING RABBI SOLOMON SCHIFF

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2012

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, Rabbi Solomon Schiff is a dedicated husband to his wife Shirley, a proud father to three sons and doting grandfather of seven. He is a world renowned spiritual leader and humanitarian whose compassion knows no bounds. Rabbi Schiff is a masterful storyteller with a penchant for comedy whose words evoke inspiration and emotion, and he is one of the most ardent Miami Dolphins supporters anyone will ever meet.

Rabbi Schiff has led a remarkable life that has taken him from New York to Illinois, Iowa and to Miami; he has traveled the globe, from Israel to Jordan, Rome, Berlin and Warsaw all in an effort to promote human rights and to live up to his religious obligations. And he has now recently decided to put pen to paper and share his life story with us, publishing his memoir "Under the Yarmulke: Tales of Faith, Fun and Football."

In this touching, and often comical retelling of his life, Rabbi Schiff shares with us his encounters with Presidents and Prime Ministers; Kings and world leaders; the Dalai Lama and the Pope; and an untold number of people of all faiths and walks of life. He has given the opening prayer on both the House and Senate floors, and has given the benediction at the White House and even on the home field of his beloved Miami Dolphins.

Though all of this would be more than enough for one man to be proud of, Rabbi

Schiff takes the most pride in living out his own motto: "Live and help live." And in his memoir, Rabbi Schiff shares with us some of the many ways he has struggled to help so many fight for justice worldwide. It is a truly inspirational story, and I commend him on all of his achievements.

Rabbi Schiff is a man of honor; he is a man of integrity and of compassion. But most of all, he is a man of action whose spiritual guidance and unwavering commitment to the betterment of peace and tranquility for all has carved an enduring legacy. He serves as a reminder to us all that we each have the capacity to make this world a better place.

We in South Florida have had the pleasure of having Rabbi Schiff working to unite the communities of all faiths for over 50 years now. He has been a pillar of the community, and a beacon of inspiration. We congratulate Rabbi Schiff on all of his achievements and accolades over the years, and we thank him for all of his efforts in South Florida and across the globe. We thank Rabbi Solomon Schiff for sharing these touching moments with us, and wish him all the best as he continues to write the next chapters of his life.

COMMENDING THE HONORABLE ERNEST OROS FOR A LIFETIME OF DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVICE

HON. LEONARD LANCE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 1, 2012

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Honorable Ernest Oros for his lifetime of dedicated public service. Ernie was born and raised in Phillipsburg, New Jersey and currently resides in Colonia, New Jersey, part of Woodbridge Township. From a young age Ernie felt called to serve the Nation he loves. Ernie joined the United States Marine Corps as a young man where he was deployed overseas with the Second Marine Division. He served in Guam, Saipan and Japan and was honorably discharged as a Corporal in 1946.

Ernie continued his public service on the Woodbridge council where he championed the creation of the Czick-Varga Memorial Park to honor local veterans who gave their lives to defend our Nation. He was a party leader on the local and county Republican committees and was elected to the New Jersey General Assembly in 1991 where he served two distinguished terms as an advocate for Middlesex County and New Jersey taxpayers.

Ernie became a small business owner with his brother, Lester, where he was known as a caring and effective leader, and is now enjoying a well earned retirement with his wife Betty, children and grandchildren.

I join Assemblyman Oros's many friends in congratulating him for his enormous public service to Woodbridge Township, Middlesex County and the state of New Jersey and his dedication to his family and our larger American society.