

Defense Authorization Act to the REPI program. Specifically, the provision would authorize DoD, pursuant to a cooperative agreement under the Sikes Act, to provide funds for the long term maintenance and improvement of natural resources on non-DoD lands without first having to protect such lands through acquisition of easements. This will greatly enhance the ability of DoD to take action to relieve or eliminate current or anticipated challenges that could restrict, impede, or otherwise interfere with, whether directly or indirectly, current or anticipated military activities. For example, this provision would help DoD meet its obligations under the Endangered Species Act and other applicable statutory and regulatory requirements through actions on non-DoD lands pursuant to a cooperative agreement with a state or local agency or a private landowner. This authority would help avoid or reduce the need to restrict training and testing activities on DoD lands.

A similar version of this bill was included as section 314 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014 as passed in the House of Representatives. My bill makes some improvements to section 314 and addresses concerns raised by the Department of Defense regarding percentage of funds allowed for administration of the program as well as auditing requirements. I look forward to working with the relevant Committee to incorporate this bill as a provision in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015.

Again, the bill is a common sense approach to better enabling DoD to meet its conservation goals and requirements while protecting its ability to meet readiness requirements. In a time of fiscal austerity, it is important for Congress to provide the Administration with the tools and authorities to be flexible and adaptable to challenges with innovative thinking and minimal investment. I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

HONORING CADET TREVOR-LEE TRAVIS

HON. JASON T. SMITH

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Cadet Trevor-Lee Travis of Missouri for his achievement and commitment to serving our country. In addition to completing the Civil Air Patrol Cadet Program, Cadet Travis is being awarded the General Billy Mitchell Award and is now eligible to be promoted to the rank of Cadet 2nd Lieutenant. To complete the program and achieve this milestone, Cadet Travis had to excel in different trainings and leadership classes. He then went before a Promotion Review Board of his peers who acknowledged his achievements and awarded him this recognition. This is quite an honor as only a few distinguished cadets nationwide achieve this status.

At a young age Cadet Travis has shown an admirable commitment to serve our country and I am very thankful for patriots like him who will lead the future generation of airmen. It is my pleasure to recognize his efforts and achievements before the House of Representatives.

RECOGNITION OF THE I.C. NORCOM BOYS' BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise with great pride to call attention to a group of young students who have distinguished themselves, their school, their community, and the city of Portsmouth, Virginia. The I.C. Norcom Greyhounds boys' basketball team had a remarkable season and I believe the Greyhounds deserve formal recognition for their accomplishments.

On March 13, 2014, the I.C. Norcom Greyhounds beat the John Handley Judges of Winchester, Virginia, to win the Group 4A boys' state basketball championship. The Greyhounds completed their 2014 season with an impressive 23–5 record. I.C. Norcom won the championship with a nearly unbelievable comeback. Down sixteen points with seven minutes left in the game, the team went on a 21–0 run, outscoring the Judges 33–12 in the fourth quarter. At the end of the game, the Greyhounds had prevailed with a final score of 59 to 52.

I.C. Norcom's boys' basketball team has had a consistent run of excellence in recent years. With this year's championship, I.C. Norcom has won three state championships in the past five years, becoming a dominant force in Virginia high school sports.

I.C. Norcom was founded in 1913 as the High Street School, the first public high school for black students in Portsmouth. It was renamed in 1953 in honor of its first supervising principal, Israel Charles Norcom, a pioneering educator, civic leader and businessman. Now, more than 100 years and three locations later, I.C. Norcom High School is still an innovating and inspiring place for Portsmouth students.

In addition to excelling on the basketball court, the Greyhounds are also doing great things in the classroom. I.C. Norcom houses a Center of Excellence in Math and Science, which provides students with additional classes in science, math, and technology. Seniors completing the Center's curriculum this year will receive Center of Excellence Diplomas which require five science course credits, one more than necessary under the advanced diploma. In addition, I.C. Norcom students have been participating in the First College program—attending Tidewater Community College this semester and taking up to 14 college credits before they graduate. I.C. Norcom is doing a great job cultivating excellence both on and off the athletic field.

I would like to extend my enthusiastic congratulations to the I.C. Norcom players, their families, Principal Dr. Rosalynn Sanderlin, Coach Leon Goolsby and the rest of his coaching staff, on the occasion of this historic Boy's basketball Championship. On behalf of the citizens of the Third Congressional District of Virginia, I.C. Norcom alumni, and the entire city of Portsmouth, I commend them for this historic win and wish the program years of continued success in the future.

HONORING TRI-COUNTY WORKFORCE ALLIANCE

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable Community Organization, Tri-County Workforce Alliance in Clarksdale, Mississippi.

Tri-County Workforce Alliance, serving the counties of Bolivar, Coahoma, and Quitman originally with the addition of Sunflower and Tallahatchie counties in 2011, in the heart of the Mississippi Delta, is a non-profit organization funded originally by the Foundation for the Mid South through Pew Charitable Trust and the Walton Foundation.

The Alliance chose its first and only executive director, Mrs. Josephine P. Rhymes, in 1997. The Alliance did not have a 501(c)3 status; however it had as the lead organization, the Coahoma County Industrial Foundation, that did have the exempt status. In 2002, the Alliance received their 501(c)3 status and its fiscal agent at present is Coahoma Community College.

The Tri-County Workforce Alliance's mission is to improve the quality of life for people living in the three counties by promoting long-term economic and community development and by building a competitive healthy workforce through education and job training.

Through collaborative efforts with other agencies with a similar mission, Tri-County Alliance worked to support and enhance their efforts through technical support and programs and assistance with alternative funding efforts through a strong mini-grant program. They made available the resources of the Enterprise Corporation of the Delta, which offered hands-on assistance to new and existing businesses in this region in three program areas: technical assistance, development finance, and private sector purchasing.

Tri-County Workforce Alliance is an organization that is made up of people from many racial, social, and economic groups of the tri-county area, working together to find positive solutions to the individual needs of two special groups of citizens: Future Workforce members are youth in high school, junior high or middle school who need a solid academic foundation or may wish to transition from high school to the workforce; and Out-of-Workforce members are adults and youth who have been unemployed for a long time, receive public assistance, or who do not work on a regular basis.

The Alliance has been successful in that it has bridged the gap between communities, between businesses and educational institutions and has enhanced educational and training strategies for the workforce, thus enabling the Alliance to leverage additional funds from other foundations, local, state and federal government and the private sector.

Through partnerships with other organizations and agencies, Tri-County Workforce Alliance has had success with: the Summer Enrichment Program in Reading and Math, which assisted 165 at-risk 4th, 5th and 6th graders in the Clarksdale Municipal School District; the Intensive Youth Supervision Program, which assisted 60 youth offenders; and the Parent Rallies, which was designed to help parents understand their roles and responsibilities in the education of their children.

This was in collaboration with the ten school districts in the tri-county area: Carpentry for Youth which provided carpentry instruction for youth who have built such things as bookcases, park benches, porches, a playhouse for a health clinic, doghouses, entertainment centers, etc.; Carpentry for Women which was a free training program for unemployed/underemployed women 18 years old and above and other support services such as childcare and transportation were provided for each participant who showed a need.

The organization is published in the Insight Center for Community Economic Development's "Building Economic Stability for Mississippi Families" (June, 2010). The Job Resource and Career Fair is sponsored for unemployed, underemployed citizens, high school seniors, and those people interested in a career change. CHOICES was another program to help curb the dropout rate. It was offered to 7th and 8th graders in the schools in the tri-county area. With the Mini-Grant Program Tri-County awarded grants in the amount of up to \$2,000 to community-based organizations, schools, business, etc. for workforce preparation and workforce development.

These funds have funded programs such as: computer training, teen parent job training, Hospice Care homemakers training, sweet potato growers training, youth employment training, personal development and job etiquette training, cultural enrichment, education rallies, vegetable processing training, hot tamale processing training, hospitality training, executive housekeeping training, child care certification training, ex-offenders job training skills, job enhancement skills training, education site visits, welfare recipient summits, business development workshops career-pathing seminars and legislative forums; the High School Mentoring Program, is a mentoring program offered to at-risk academic and social 9th–12th graders at Coahoma Agricultural High School, one of our local high schools. The Groundhog Job Shadow Day has been held for the past eight years for 7th–12th graders in Coahoma County, and for the past four years in Bolivar and Quitman Counties. Students spend one day in the world of work. There has been two students who won the Mike Moore Scholarship in the amount of \$500 each. As a result of this activity, students have gotten after school jobs, a full-tuition scholarship and a book allotment totaling \$2,000 is awarded to a freshman student who has maintained a 2.8 average in high school and has an interest in vocational/technical education at Coahoma Community College. Emphasis is placed on interested non-traditional students: Industry Education Day is a program designed to improve the working relationship between business, industry and education for improved economic development; After School Tutorial Programs is a program designed for tutoring in mathematics and reading with cultural and survival components for two schools' 4th, 5th, and 6th graders who are at risk of academic failure; Workforce Public Policy Initiative assists to develop policy that promotes opportunities to construct, implement, and evaluate a framework that is comprehensive and participatory in nature; assists people in preparing for pursuit of living with wage jobs to improve livelihood security and quality of life and to create a model program that can be used as a demonstration to influence public policy.

This program resulted in the development of a professionalization curriculum that is sanc-

tioned by employers and potential employees; Pathways to Collaboration is a workgroup with four other organizations to examine the success of and create a means of communicating to the world the special value of our collaborative process of engaging people who are directly experiencing problems in the community by problem solving.

Chosen as one of the seven originals from 764 applicants Tri-County Workforce Alliance has completed a study and the results have been published in a book entitled: "Engaging the Community in Decision Making: Case Studies Tracking Participation, Voice and Influence" by Roz Diane Lasker and John A. Guidry, McFarland & Company, Inc. Publishers. High School Mentorship Program in Health Care Professions is a program for 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students in Bolivar, Coahoma, Quitman, Sunflower and Tallahatchie counties who have expressed an interest in the health profession. The program has an individual mentor component for on the job shadowing for 60 hours and a two week Summer Institute with advanced studies in science, math, english/reading and critical thinking/analysis.

This program is a step program that leads into dual enrollment in the community college's RN or CNA or phlebotomy programs in the 12th grade; An Academy of Science, Reading and Mathematics for Potential Health Care Professionals in a program opened to 6th, 7th, and 8th graders in Coahoma and Quitman counties who express an interest in health care professions. A four-week summer institute is held where students do intensive study of science, reading and mathematics and health disparities. The students dissect animal organs (heart and kidney) to learn the parts of the body that are affected by the diseases. They work with doctors to create a wellness program for family members with the disease.

The Alliance is deeply embedded in the communities that it serves. It is helping to create change by crossing all boundaries—geographical, political, ethnical, age, and socioeconomic. Its goal is to continue to develop a network of agencies and individuals to provide ongoing strategic planning, innovative programs and leveraging local, state, federal and foundation funds.

Tri-County Workforce Alliance is governed by a 25-member board made up of representatives from government, business and industry, educational institutions (high school, junior college and four year colleges), community-based organizations, youth, and grassroots individuals, representing the three counties. Elected officers included: Charles Barron, Chairman; George Walker (deceased), Co-Chairman, Elizabeth Johnson, Treasurer and Shirley Morgan, Secretary. Other Board members include: Charles Reid, Priscilla Sharpe, Glenn Adams, W.J. Jones, Earnestine Keys, Aurelia Jones-Taylor, Kenisha Shelton, Dorothy Prestwich, Suzanne Walton, Leonia Adams from Coahoma County; Lillie V. Davis, Mary Townner, Hubert Owten, Victor Richardson, Mamie White, Pearl White, Irma Bell, Lister Bowdoin from Quitman County; and Eulah Peterson, Roger Carter and Jordan Goins from Bolivar County.

Currently, an executive director, Josephine P. Rhymes, since 1997 and an administrative assistant, Harold Jones, since 2009 are the only full-time staff and there are seven part-

time program staff members. Tri-County has also formed some very wholesome partnerships with other organizations that have similar missions and they provide them with the use of facilities, staff, technical assistance and funds.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing an amazing Community Organization for their dedication for change and equality.

LETTER REGARDING WARTIME TREATMENT OF ITALIAN AMERICANS

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share a letter that I recently received from Chet Campanella of San Jose. Mr. Campanella is an Italian American who experienced firsthand the injustices committed against Italians living in America during World War II. He has been sharing his story, and his efforts to raise awareness resulted in a formal acknowledgment and apology from the State of California in 2010.

Many are familiar with the internment of 120,000 Japanese Americans during World War II, partly due to the enactment of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians Act in 1980, the Commission's report in 1983, and the subsequent Civil Liberties Act of 1988 that provided an official apology for the internment of Japanese Americans. What remains less well known is the mistreatment of thousands of Japanese and European Latin Americans, European Americans, and Jewish refugees that took place prior to and during WWII.

The 1980 Commission did address the mistreatment of Japanese, German, and Italian Latin Americans, but only in the appendix to its report. Just one chapter of thirteen addressed the mistreatment of German and Italian Americans in the U.S. Moreover, no recommendations were made with regard to these populations and no official apology was issued—unlike for Japanese internment.

This is an issue that I've been involved with for several years. In 2008, I worked with a number of my colleagues to amend a Japanese-American internment resolution to include injustices committed against European Americans during World War II. As amended and passed by the House, H. Res. 1357 specifically expressed Congress' resolve to "review the wartime treatment of . . . Italian Americans, to determine whether they should also receive an apology and reparations similar to that provided in the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 for Japanese Americans interned during World War II." The following year, as Chair of the Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees, Border Security, and International Law, I led a hearing that featured testimony from experts detailing the severe injustices suffered by Italian Americans and other groups during this difficult time in our nation's history. Under my leadership, the subcommittee also considered H.R. 1425, the "Wartime Treatment Study Act," which called for a commission to study and issue a report on the treatment of European-Americans during World War II. Although the bill