

the refuge system, because H.R. 511 would also restrict the ability of the wildlife management professionals at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service properly to manage recreational activities. Hunting, if properly controlled, is an important tool in the kit of the wildlife manager. However, if not managed properly, it can rapidly deplete wildlife populations.

The Theodore Roosevelt Wildlife Legacy Act, on the other hand, reaffirms conservation as the purpose of the refugee system and establishes an objective process for evaluating whether recreational activities are compatible with wildlife conservation. It recognizes wildlife dependent recreation, including wildlife observation, hunting, and fishing, as priority uses of the system, but ensures that they are subordinate to conservation goals.

While the National Wildlife Refuge System provides world class opportunities for hunting and other outdoor recreation, which I support, the approach taken in H.R. 511 is dead wrong. The overwhelming majority of visitors to our wildlife refuges come not to hunt or trap, but to observe and enjoy nature in other ways. Yet those who do wish to hunt and fish enjoy broad access to refuge lands; in fact, over half of all refuges—comprising more than 90 percent of the system's acreage—already permit these recreational uses.

The Theodore Roosevelt Wildlife Legacy Act provides an effective blueprint to guide the refuge system into the 21st century. This bill ensures that all Americans will continue to get a fair return on their investment in the National Wildlife Refuge System. It is supported by a number of major conservation organizations, including the National Audubon Society, the Wildlife Society, Defenders of Wildlife, the Environmental Defense Fund, and the Natural Resources Defense Council. In contrast, H.R. 511 is a solution in search of a problem, and that solution will undermine 94 years of fish and wildlife conservation.

In 1903, President Roosevelt had the foresight to set aside a place—a small place—where wildlife came first. Let us maintain a place in our increasingly crowded world where there is room for people, but where wildlife comes first. That place is the National Wildlife Refuge System and we should keep it that way. Support the Theodore Roosevelt Wildlife Legacy Act.

---

TRIBUTE TO FRED KORT

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 5, 1997*

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a truly extraordinary individual, Fred Kort. Mr. Kort has lived an amazing life; his story serves as an inspiration to all that know him. I am honored today to be able to pay tribute to this man, as recognition is long overdue.

Mr. Kort was born in Germany just before Adolf Hitler came to power. In 1938, his family was deported from southern Germany to Poland, and Fred was forced to continue his elementary school education at the American ORT Program in Poland. Things changed drastically with the outbreak of war as the family was separated and Fred and his brother were forced into the Lodz ghetto. In 1940,

Fred escaped the Lodz Ghetto and made his way to Warsaw where he was reunited with his father. However, a short time later, he was forced into the Falenti labor camp. He toiled in the camp for 19 months, only to return to the Warsaw Ghetto where he was again captured and a few weeks later taken to Treblinka. Upon arriving at Treblinka, 90 percent of the individuals were immediately exterminated. Remarkably, Mr. Kort managed to survive in the camp for over a year.

Eventually, Fred managed to escape from Treblinka, and joined the Polish underground. As a member of the resistance he was inducted into the Polish Army. A year later the war ended, enabling Mr. Kort to return home. There he reunited with his mother and sister and found out that his father, brother, and several close relatives had not survived the Holocaust. In 1947, Fred left Europe for America to start a new life.

Upon arriving in the United States he worked and lived in New York as a technician. Eventually his work led him to relocate to Los Angeles. In Los Angeles he learned all that he could about the toy company business and in 1969 opened the Imperial Toy Co.

Mr. Kort always has been generous with his time as well as his money supporting various philanthropic charities. Fred's history of giving ranges from shipping toys to children left homeless by Hurricane Andrew to being an original founder of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC. Indeed his work in preserving the memory of the Holocaust has been exemplary.

The memory of the Holocaust has never been far from the heart and mind of Fred Kort. From his role in testifying at five Nazi war crime trials, to helping build museums in Washington and Los Angeles, Mr. Kort has worked to ensure that the knowledge of what happened will not be lost on future generations. Mr. Kort's life is a testament to the enduring nature of the human spirit as the strength of a lifetime was built from the ashes of hatred. Indeed one can say with certainty that America, and indeed the world, is a better place with Mr. Kort in it.

---

TRIBUTE TO BETTY AND LARRY FISHER

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 5, 1997*

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, Mr. BERMAN and I are honored today to pay tribute to two of our dearest friends—Betty and Larry Fisher—for whom political activism is an abiding passion and a participatory sport. Betty and Larry are model good citizens, who have for decades offered freely of their time and every resource to advance the many good causes they have espoused.

Betty began her political career in the early 1960's, coordinating major events for Senators Hubert Humphrey and TED KENNEDY. She has been at it ever since. Among the positions in which she has served are Business Manager for the Robert Kennedy for President Campaign Committee; member of the Los Angeles

County Regional Planning Commission and, from 1991–95, Chief of Staff for Los Angeles City Councilwoman Ruth Galanter.

Larry has combined an extensive political background with a highly successful and distinguished business career. As chairman of Braun Ketchum, Los Angeles, Larry provided guidance to many of the country's most influential corporations, including Transamerica Occidental Life, GTE, and Great Western Financial. He also made time to serve as Executive Director of the California Democratic Party and continues to be heavily involved in political activities.

Larry is also a guiding force in community service. He is a trustee of the Norris Cancer Institute and Research Center, a director of the Shelter Partnership and a member of both the World Affairs Council and the Public Relations Society of America.

Among the most impressive thing about Larry and Betty Fisher is that their marriage has thrived in spite of the fact that he graduated from USC and she from UCLA. Indeed, we both cut our political teeth working alongside Betty in Young Democrats at UCLA. Larry and Betty's enormous political skill enabled them to survive even this intense interscholastic rivalry.

Seriously, Betty and Larry are among the world's most delightful human beings. They are charming, intelligent, and just great fun.

We ask our colleagues to join us today in saluting Betty and Larry Fisher, whose friendship and wisdom have been of the greatest value to us over the years. Their sense of commitment and dedication to making this a better world is an inspiration to us all. They are moving to a neighborhood some distance from us, and we will miss seeing them often. We send them off, however, with our greatest affection and wishes of continued happiness and success.

---

TRIBUTE TO HONOR ANN BARBARO, FOUNDER OF STRAIGHT TALK IN ROCKAWAY, QUEENS

HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 5, 1997*

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, one of the pleasures of serving in this legislative body is the opportunity we occasionally get to acknowledge publicly the outstanding citizens of our Nation.

I rise today to honor a distinguished resident of my district, Ms. Ann Barbaro. In an independent and bold move, Ms. Barbaro started a paper called Straight Talk, to report on news and events in the local community of Rockaway, Queens. It operated successfully for little over a year before it was forced to close its doors. The paper was to serve as a vehicle to educate the residents of her neighborhood. Today I would like to commend her initiative to improve and uplift her community through this paper. Ms. Barbaro has remained very involved in civic matters in the community and I expect her to do so for a long time to come.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this moment to ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in honoring Ms. Barbaro for her commitment to improving the