

control, damage to property values, health costs and other factors. Just one species can cost government and private citizens billions of dollars. For example, zebra mussels have cost the various entities in the Great Lakes basin an estimated \$3 billion during the past 10 years for cleaning water intake pipes, purchasing filtration equipment.

Beyond economic impacts, invasive species cause ecological costs that are even more difficult to quantify. For example, sea lamprey control measures in the Great Lakes cost approximately \$10 to \$15 million annually. However, we do not have a good measure of the cost of lost fisheries due to this invader. In fact, invasive species are now the number two threat to endangered species, right behind habitat loss. Quantifying the loss due to extinction of these species is nearly impossible.

To protect our environment and our economy, it is critical that we prevent the introduction of aquatic invasive species to U.S. waters and eradicate any new introduction before the species can become established (once an invasive species is established, it is almost impossible to eradicate it). Spending millions of dollars to prevent species introductions will save billions of dollars in control, eradication and restoration efforts once the species become established. Prevention requires careful, concerted management, but it also requires good research. For example, it is impossible to know how to prevent invasive species from entering the United States without a good understanding of how they get here, an understanding that we would develop through the pathway surveys conducted under this bill. We cannot screen the planned importations of non-native species for ones that may invade without a thorough understanding of the characteristics that make a species invasive and an ecosystem vulnerable, a profile that would be created in this bill. Finally, we can't prevent invasive species from entering our waters through ships' ballasts (a known pathway) without good technologies to eradicate species in ballast waters. This bill supports the development and demonstration of technologies to detect, prevent and eradicate invasive species.

In fact, research underlies every management decision aimed at detecting, preventing, controlling and eradicating invasive species; educating citizens and stakeholders; and restoring ecosystems. Research is also crucial to ensure that resources are optimally deployed to increase the effectiveness of government programs. This bill sets up a comprehensive research program to support efforts to detect, prevent and eradicate invasive species through informing and reviewing management initiatives. Now let me explain some of the details of the bill.

The bill is divided into six sections. In the first three sections of the bill, a comprehensive research program is established through the United States Geological Survey, the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to conduct surveys and experimentation on invasive species, and analyze and disseminate the results. The goal of this program is to support efforts to prevent the introduction of, detect and eradicate invasive species. This will be done by notifying early detection and rapid response efforts, informing relevant policy questions, and assessing the effectiveness of implemented policies. For instance, infor-

mation about new invasive species discovered in the monitoring effort will be directly disseminated to those agencies that can respond rapidly. And policy makers will learn about the pathways and practices that are most responsible for bringing invasive species into U.S. waters so that they can set up targeted responses to reduce the risk posed by those pathways.

In the fourth section of the bill, a research, development and deployment program is set up to promote environmentally sound technologies to better detect, prevent the introduction of, and eradicate invasive species. This includes programs to develop dispersal barriers, and the expansion of a program geared toward demonstrating technologies that prevent invasive species from being introduced by ships. The fifth section of the bill focuses on setting up research to directly support the Coast Guard's efforts to set standards for the treatment of ships with respect to preventing them from introducing invasive species. The National Academy of Sciences will be asked to make recommendations for standards, and researchers will be asked to evaluate the effectiveness of any standard and recommend protocols to test technologies on ships to make sure they meet that standard. Finally, invasive species research depends on strong academic programs in systematics and taxonomy and so the National Science Foundation will be given funding to support academic research in those areas.

Preventing aquatic invasive species from entering U.S. waters and eradicating them upon entry are critical to our economy and environment, and good policy decisions depend on good scientific research. I urge all of my colleagues to support this very important bill.

TRIBUTE TO MORRIS MICHAEL
SCIONTI

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2002

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Morris Michael Scionti, a passionate political activist who lived every moment of his life with tremendous enthusiasm and flair. As Chair of the Hillsborough County Democratic Executive Committee, Mike displayed unwavering loyalty to his country and his party.

Mike first shared his love for the political process in the classroom. For thirty years, he taught high school civics and history classes with the same affection and conviction that he later brought to politics. After teaching, Mike dove full force into politics, playing an integral role in Lawton Chiles' successful campaigns for U.S. Senate and Governor, among other races. He then went on to work for the Division of Business and Professional Regulation and as executive director of the Florida Athletic Commission.

Tampa Bay, however, will remember Mike most for his countless contributions to Hillsborough County's Democratic Executive Committee. Never one to shy away from a good political argument, Mike was an excellent choice to take the helm of the organization. With his boundless energy, he always found a way to excite people about politics.

Despite all of his commitments in the community, Mike, a father of three, always found

time for family. I would like to express my heartfelt sympathies to Mike's children and family members. Morris Michael Scionti will be remembered in Tampa Bay as a passionate and fiercely loyal competitor. Our community will miss him greatly.

HONORING JOHN AND ANN MARIE
WOOLLEY, HUMBOLDT COUNTY, CA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 18, 2002

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize John and Ann Marie Woolley, two extraordinary citizens of Humboldt County, California who have dedicated their lives to public service. They are being honored for their life-long contribution to one of the nation's most precious rights—participation in the political system. Their contributions are worthy of appreciation and recognition.

Ann Marie Woolley, a member of the faculty of College of the Redwoods, is Coordinator of the California Early Childhood Mentor Program. She has served as Head Start Coordinator and Regional Supervisor, North Coast Children's Services and is a full time instructor of Early Childhood Education at College of the Redwoods. She has been an advocate for services for young children for 25 years. In addition, she has coordinated and directed parenting workshops and consumer homemaking programs. Ann Marie Woolley was named College of the Redwoods Outstanding Associate Faculty Member of the Year, 2001–2002. She is an accomplished musician, has edited an environmental newspaper and written music reviews and is a member of numerous environmental and social justice organizations.

John Scott Woolley, Third District Supervisor, County of Humboldt, has been actively involved in community service projects throughout his career. At Humboldt State University, the Center for Community Development, John was responsible for the initial development of community programs that assisted seniors, women and children throughout the region. As the Community Economic Development Planner at the Northern California Indian Development Council, John coordinated statewide programs which included federal tribal recognition petitions, an American Indian health satellite clinic and labor and business training in natural resources improvement contracting. He is an outstanding county supervisor who works hard for his district and represents the county on the boards of the North Coast Emergency Medical services, North Coast Railroad Authority, Whole Child Interagency Council, and North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District. His civic and philanthropic contributions to our community are numerous.

They share the happiness of family life with their two sons, James and Kevin.

John and Ann Marie are being recognized for their outstanding contribution to the political process by the Humboldt County Democratic Central Committee as "Democrats of the Year, 2002."

Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate at this time that we recognize John and Ann Marie Woolley for their unwavering compassion and for their contribution to the ideals and traditions that have made America great.