

Sur. These pigs plough up native plants which destroys habitat for native animals and opens the way for many non native plants to colonize the disturbed ground. On their own, each of these species has inflicted major adverse changes to the Big Sur landscape. Their combined assault has resulted in the displacement of entire native communities.

Mr. Speaker, the federal government has invested millions of dollars in acquiring land for conservation in the Big Sur region. A program of this type would help prevent the ecological value of that investment from being destroyed. This region needs a program to target the eradication of invasive plant and animal species in the Monterey District of the Los Padres National Forest. In addition nearly private or other non USFS property where the property owner seeks the assistance and where the invasive species are present on that property pose a threat to national forest lands and should be included as well.

Mr. Speaker, I want to see the transfer USFS land currently occupied by Pacific Valley School under special use permit to the Pacific Valley School District. The amount of land to be transferred should not exceed the school's existing footprint (approximately 5 acres). Also, the transfer should include reversionary language that would require transfer back to the Forest Service if the School District ever gave up use of the land. The Pacific Valley School serves the residents of the rural southern Big Sur Coast. It has approximately 40 students in grades K–8. The school has occupied a site on USFS property under a special use permit for approximately 35 years. The school itself consists of 6 portable buildings arranged on a series of concrete and asphalt pads. Over the years the school has had a good relationship with the Forest Service. The major problem is the inflexibility that the special use permit arrangement imposes on the school's site management. Generally, any changes the school wants to make to the site have to be cleared by the Forest Service. Even if a change, for example the addition of a student garden or replacing a set of building steps, may not need Forest Service approval, the uncertainty of whether it does have a chilling effect on any activity. This transfer is intended to resolve the potential conflict and release the USFS from acting as a school site manager.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I feel we should authorize the construction and maintenance of a new water line and corresponding spring box improvements adjacent to an existing domestic water service in the Silver Peak Wilderness Area in the Los Padres National Forest. The water system in question serves two adjacent properties located just outside the existing Silver Peak Wilderness Area boundary established in 1992. Both parcels are 10 acres and are located in the west ¼ of the south ¼ of the southwest ¼ of the southeast ¼ of section 14 in township 24 south, range 5 east, MDB&M. Both parcels have drawn water from the same spring for over 40 years. A single pipeline runs from the spring box located in the wilderness and delivers water to the two parcels in succession. The 1992 act creating the Silver Peak Wilderness Area grandfathered this system into the wilderness. However, Monterey County ordinances now implementing state and federal law treat the system as a water distribution system which requires it to comply with the treatment and storage

needs of a larger system serving multi-households. The owners of the two parcels want to lay a new separate pipeline alongside the existing line so that they become two separate individual systems and thus free of the cost of complying with the multiple hook-up requirements.

Mr. Speaker, I once again want to thank all those that made passage of this legislation possible. Protection of these resources is of great benefit to all.

HONORING BENEDICT KUPCHO ON
THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today to join Coginchaug Regional High School and the community of Durham, Connecticut in paying tribute to Benedict Kupcho as he celebrates his retirement after thirty-seven years of service. An educator, colleague, and friend, Mr. Kupcho has been an invaluable resource to the students and faculty of Coginchaug Regional High School and the residents of Durham throughout his career.

I have often spoke of our nation's need for talented, creative educators ready to help our students learn and grow. Mr. Kupcho is just that kind of teacher. His commitment and dedication has touched the lives of thousands of our young people. Mr. Kupcho has enriched his students lives ensured that they have a strong foundation on which to build their futures—making a real difference in all of their lives. Coginchaug Regional High School has been fortunate to have benefitted from his many years of service.

I have had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Kupcho on several occasions throughout my career in the House of Representatives and I am always in awe of his seemingly unending enthusiasm and excitement. For twenty-two years, Mr. Kupcho has organized Coginchaug's annual trip to Washington, D.C.—bringing over two thousand students to our nation's capital throughout five separate administrations. Through wind, rain, sleet and snow, he has worked tirelessly to ensure that his students were given the opportunity to visit Washington and experience how our government works. I have always held a firm belief in the importance of engaging our young people in the democratic process and in assuring that they have a voice here in Washington. Mr. Kupcho's dedication is a reflection of this ideal and our community owes him a great debt of gratitude for all that he has done on behalf of our young people.

As a track coach and student advisor, Mr. Kupcho has also acted as a mentor to many students—truly helping to shape their lives outside of the classroom as well. In addition to his many professional contributions at Coginchaug Regional High School, Mr. Kupcho has also been active in the Durham community. One of the most popular and longest running events in Connecticut, the Durham Fair has long been the beneficiary of Mr. Kupcho's time and energy. Attracting thousands of people from across the state, the Durham Fair is a major event for the small

community of Durham. The name Benedict Kupcho is almost synonymous with the parking organization for the Fair and it has been his efforts that have enabled its many attendees to enjoy this wonderful annual event.

It is with great pleasure and my very best wishes for continued health and happiness that I stand today and extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Benedict Kupcho for all of his good work throughout his thirty-seven years with Coginchaug Regional High School. Though he will certainly be missed, he has left an indelible mark on the Durham community and a legacy that will inspire others for many years to come.

IN HONOR OF RABBI STUART
WEINBLATT

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rabbi Stuart Weinblatt on his 50th birthday and in recognition of the tremendous work he has done on behalf of others. Rabbi Weinblatt and his wife Symcha are the parents of four wonderful children, Ezra, Margalit, Micha, and Noam. He is the founding Rabbi of Congregation B'nai Tzedek, a Conservative synagogue in Potomac, Maryland, to which I belong, serving more than 620 families. Prior to forming Congregation B'nai Tzedek in 1988, Rabbi Weinblatt was the Rabbi of Temple Solel in Bowie, Maryland, for seven years and Temple Beth Am in Miami, Florida, from 1979–1981.

Rabbi Weinblatt is active in a number of local and national organizations, including the National Rabbinic Cabinet of the UHC, Hillel at the University of Maryland, the Jewish National Fund, Israel Bonds, the Jewish Community Council, where he chaired a committee on Jewish Life and Culture, and the Federation of Greater Washington, where he chaired the Super Sunday effort several years ago. Rabbi Weinblatt has also served as President of the Washington Board of Rabbis. He has been an adjunct professor of Jewish History and Theology at Wesley Theological Seminary since 1992. His dynamic leadership, innovative approach to Judaism and reputation as an outstanding teacher and speaker has earned him many honors, including selection as a Bronfman Fellow by CLAL and as a fellow in the Shalom Hartman Institute Center for Rabbinic Enrichment program. In recognition of his outstanding leadership and community involvement, he was chosen in 2001 as the Washington area ORT "Man of the Year." He is a strong and vocal supporter of the State of Israel.

I met Stuart Weinblatt when I was first running for Congress, 14 years ago, when we were seated at the same table, by chance, at a dinner. I had no idea that years later I would become a member of a new synagogue that was opening with him at the helm. I have followed this man all these years, and have watched him and the synagogue grow in stature. His sermons are always remarkable and inspiring.

Mr. Speaker, Rabbi Weinblatt's years of service to his community and the nation have

enriched the lives of so many others and he is a stellar example of the type of individuals we need leading our communities. I am proud to be a congregant of Rabbi Weinblatt's Synagogue. I wish Rabbi Weinblatt a very happy 50th birthday and I look forward to his continued service as a leader in our community. I am proud to call him my Rabbi, and even more proud to call him my friend.

HONORING THE MEMORY AND
COURAGE OF JOURNALISTS

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory and the courage of journalists who have given their lives in the pursuit of truth.

I rise to commend organizations like the National Ukrainian Journalists Union, a group dedicated to the protection of Ukrainian journalists, the abolition of censorship and the defense of free speech.

In many developing countries, harassment, in the form of threats, arrest, and even kidnapping and murder is used as a tool to silence journalists who dare to report the truth. No single attempt at censorship has sparked more protest than the disappearance and murder of Georgiy Honhadze in Ukraine in 2000. This crime cast international attention on the systemic oppression of freedom of expression, and cast significant doubts on the level of democratic development in Ukraine.

The death of Honhadze, the beating death of Ihor Aleksandrov, the director of a television station in the Donetsk region of eastern Ukraine in July 2001, and most recently, the death of Mykhailo Kolomyiets, the director of a news agency in Kyiv, Ukrainian News, reinforce doubt about the state of freedom in Ukraine. The lethargic pursuit of the investigations of these deaths by authorities indicates official apathy if not tacit approval.

Mr. Speaker, continued government control of the media, and often violent oppression of freedom of expression denies the Ukrainian people their inalienable human rights and prevents democracy from rooting and growing in Ukraine. Therefore, I call upon my Colleagues in the Congress to urge the government of Ukraine to resolve the deaths of these journalists expeditiously, to implement an agenda for the defense of free speech, and to recognize the fourth day of December as "a day of sorrow for lost journalists."

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSMAN BOB
BORSKI

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize a good friend and colleague, BOB BORSKI, upon the occasion of his retirement from twenty years of distinguished service in the House of Representatives.

Congressman BOB BORSKI (D-PA) was first elected to the U.S. House of Representatives

in November 1982. He is currently serving his tenth term as the Representative from Pennsylvania's Third Congressional District, which encompasses Northeast Philadelphia, the River Wards, Society Hill and portions of Queen Village. Of the three districts that include parts of Philadelphia, the 3rd is the only district completely within city limits.

As a teenager in Northeast Philadelphia, BOB was a standout athlete for the Frankford High Pioneers, captaining the basketball and baseball teams. He is a low-profile leader in Congress, but he still gives his all for the community where he grew up, devoting most of his energies to the needs and concerns of the 3rd District.

Since he was elected, BOB BORSKI has fought vigorously to preserve military facilities and defense jobs in his congressional district and throughout the Philadelphia region. In 1993 and 1995, he worked with the city of Philadelphia and community leaders to defeat attempts to close the Aviation Supply Office (ASO) and its tenant activities in Northeast Philadelphia.

In the past couple of years, BOB has initiated an effort to reclaim and revitalize the neglected waterfront of the Delaware River. We worked together in a coordinated effort with various regional, federal, state and local stakeholders in order to develop Philadelphia's waterfront for the benefit of both the city and the people. He envisioned an exciting, prosperous, new waterfront for Philadelphia that will reconnect neighborhoods with land developed for many uses. Interconnected recreational pathways as well as plenty of open green space bordering the river are principal parts of his vision.

Representative BORSKI retires as the third ranking Democrat on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and as the lead Democrat on the Committee's Highways and Transit Subcommittee.

In addition to his leadership position on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, BOB served as Regional White for Philadelphia and Ohio. As a senior member on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and Subcommittee Ranking Member, BOB has been a vocal advocate of an improved national transportation system and a strong federal commitment to public infrastructure and mass transit programs. In Philadelphia, his legislative efforts have resulted in millions of dollars more for SEPTA, I-95, neighborhood roads, and transportation improvements which will greatly benefit the Port of Philadelphia, and as a result, the surrounding area.

In the 105th Congress, BOB worked to pass TEA-21, authorizing spending for highway, mass transit and other transportation-related projects across the nation. This bill included \$221 million in projects for the City of Philadelphia and led to the expansion of Philadelphia International Airport, I-95 improvements, investment in mass transit, and the construction of the Frankford Transportation Center, a state of the art multimodal terminal complex. With TEA-21, Congressman BORSKI led the effort to bring construction and manufacturing jobs to the City of Philadelphia with projects that also assisted in the reduction of traffic congestion and air pollution.

He has worked consistently to defend public safety, authoring legislation which bans the expanded use of triple trailer trucks as well as legislation which prohibited the dangerous

practice of backhauling—transporting foods one way and toxic chemicals on the return trip.

In previous years, BORSKI served as the top Democrat on the Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee, a job that at times pulled him well beyond his customary focus on Philadelphia into issues such as government response to natural disasters and desalination efforts in communities short of fresh water. BOB was instrumental insuring the passage of the landmark Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act.

BOB BORSKI has been a strong supporter of the environment. As the subcommittee began debate in the 105h Congress on legislation to overhaul the Superfund hazardous waste cleanup program, BORSKI refused to support legislation that would go easy on polluters or that failed to ensure the protection of human health and the environment. He has pushed for legislation to promote cleanup of "brownfields"—urban industrial sites where pollution discourages redevelopment.

BOB is also a member of the Subcommittee on Railroads, the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, the Congressional Delegation to the NATO Assembly, and the ad-hoc committee on Irish Affairs.

In addition to his committee assignments, he represented the concerns and needs of his large senior citizen constituency and serves on the Older Americans Caucus, the Diabetes Caucus, and the Prescription Drug Task Force.

Prior to his 1982 election to the U.S. Congress BOB BORSKI served three terms in the Pennsylvania State House. Before that, he was a floor manager at the Philadelphia Stock Exchange. He was born in Philadelphia on October 20, 1948 and is a life-long resident of the city. In 1966, he graduated from Frankford High School where he captained the basketball and baseball teams. He attended the University of Baltimore on an athletic scholarship and, after graduating with a B.A. in 1971, served one year as the assistant basketball coach. Congress BORSKI lives in Northeast Philadelphia with his wife Karen and is the father of four girls and one boy.

I am grateful for the many years I've gotten to serve with BOB in the Pennsylvania delegation. His friendship, unfailing congeniality and hard work made it a joy to work with him, contributed immeasurably to the cohesiveness of the delegation and benefited Pennsylvania greatly. He will be remembered as a gentleman and statesman who left a positive mark on this body.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF
CORNELIUS MYRICKS

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 22, 2002

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of Cornelius Myricks born April 25, 1926 in Montgomery, Alabama. During his younger years, Mr. Myricks served in the United States Navy for four years. After being honorably discharged from the Navy, he moved to Chicago, Illinois. It was then he became a member of Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church and ordained as a Deacon in 1950. He served as