

the war would not have opposed this intervention. All these factors and other issues were noted in a document and, to a certain extent, were guaranteed. The economic aid was requested not as the price for our cooperation, but as a partial compensation on the part of those waging the war for the damage we will be sustaining. We were not after a payment for the assistance we would be extending.

The Turkish Grand National Assembly [TBMM] has not endorsed the government motion which was in harmony with this reasoning. The TBMM is the representative of the nation. Sovereignty belongs unconditionally to the people. We only have respect for this decision. My wish is that this mode of action, which we chose in a bid to avoid war, will not force us to take certain actions with those waging the war as the opposition.

As for the question on what will happen now that the motion is not endorsed, may our lofty people be tranquil. The Turkish Republic is a great and strong state with rooted traditions. Every complicated problem has a simple solution. All the authorized organs and institutions are assessing the issue in line with the new situation. A solution that will best safeguard and implement our national interests will certainly be found.

Now I would like to address the leaders in north Iraq. We are the slaves of our geography. We have no other place to go, nor do we have other friends and neighbors to befriend. Our peoples are connected with family ties. We were next to them during their most troubled times. They are well aware of this fact. We never deceived them, we never lied to them. Together we accomplished work that was beneficial for both sides. Those who forget the past will become the bad architects of the future. What has happened now to cause this anti-Turkey atmosphere and all these bitter statements? The Turkish flag is being burned. We are a noble and honorable nation that did not burn the flags of the countries that occupied our country even when we defeated them. I remind them about our right for legitimate defense derived from our national interests, and I hope that they will be moderate and cooperative. Those who prefer to replace peace with clashes will also have to shoulder its outcome and its responsibility.

Esteemed media members, my last word is directed to you. Please make sure that in this critical period, your reports are correct, that your assessments are based on sufficient facts, and that you do not make errors that might damage our national interests. I extend my deepest respect to all of you. I thank you all.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SPECIES
PROTECTION AND CONSERVA-
TION OF THE ENVIRONMENT ACT

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, unbeknownst to many Americans lurks a drain on our economy estimated to be greater than \$100 billion annually and growing, a drain that goes unchecked and relatively unpublicized because it is not glamorous. Yet, this drain is spreading, continually invading our natural spaces and crowding out our native flora and fauna—in West Virginia, across Appalachia and beyond.

This economic sinkhole is caused by harmful non-native species, also referred to as invasive or nuisance species; an issue which last year catapulted into the public eye with the larger-than-life Northern Snakehead fish in a Maryland pond. But it took a predatory fish that can walk on land, with enough charisma to make it onto David Letterman's late night Top Ten List, to get the American public to finally sit up and take notice.

As Aldo Leopold said: "A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise." This then sums up the silent warfare that is being perpetrated against our economy, our fish and wildlife and our native species of plants—threats by invasive species.

For instance, my home State of West Virginia is relatively small in terms of land mass, but vast in the opportunities it affords anyone who seeks to enjoy wildlife-based outdoor recreation. Yet, this traditional and important sector of my State's economy is under siege by harmful non-native space invaders. According to a report focusing on West Virginia that was just released by the Union of Concerned Scientists:

State and Federal agencies have spent more than \$18 million since 1983 to control the European Gypsy Moth in West Virginia, a voracious forest pest that kills trees and dramatically hurts the timber industry;

The balsam fir tree, on the state list of rare plants, is being infected by a small insect, the balsam wooly adelgid, which sucks the tree's sap, thereby killing it. This tree is a unique species for my State, and unless drastic measures are taken, it will be completely wiped out by this insect; and

In a continuation of the plight of the Great Lakes, the zebra mussel has found its way to West Virginia. So far, the zebra mussel is responsible for the Federal listing of five species of mussel in the Ohio River, not to mention economic and public health impacts from its clogging of municipal and industrial water intake pipes and outfalls.

These are only select examples that illustrate the kinds of problems West Virginia faces as the result of invasive species. Unfortunately, there are over 1,000 non-native species in West Virginia, over 300 of which are known to cause environmental and economic damage. In my view, we have an obligation to our natural heritage to protect, conserve and restore native species from these "space invaders."

While there are a number of initiatives already in place aimed at combating invasive species, there is a void in existing statutes. No current law is directly designed to protect and conserve our native species from harmful non-native species at the Federal or any other level. There are laws addressing harmful non-native species, but mainly through prevention, including the National Invasive Species Act, the Alien Species Prevention and Enforcement Act, the Federal Plant Pest Act, the Plant Protection Act, and the Federal Noxious Weed Act. Most Federal funding presently goes to protect production agriculture with little allocated to assist States and local communities directly.

For these reasons, today I, along with like-minded Members who are similarly concerned about invasive species, are reintroducing legislation to protect, conserve and restore our native fish, wildlife and their habitats by addressing the threat of harmful invasive species where it matters most—at the local level.

The Species Protection and Conservation of the Environment Act, or SPACE Act, would provide the missing link in existing efforts to combat the destructive invasion of some of our most valuable natural areas by harmful non-native species. Save for a couple of refinements, this bill is identical to legislation reported by the Resources Committee last year. Specifically our legislation would:

Provide grants to States to write State-wide assessments to identify exactly where their native species are being threatened by harmful nonnative species and where cooperative control efforts should be focused;

Encourage the formation of voluntary, locally-based partnerships among Federal land management agencies and non-Federal land and water owners and managers through the competitive Aldo Leopold grant program and encourage the use of innovative technology to control invasive species;

Create a legislative authority for the National Invasive Species Council;

Authorize a Federal-level rapid response capability for an incipient threat; and

Provide funds for long term monitoring of control project sites so that we can learn by experience what strategies and techniques are most effective at controlling harmful non-native species.

The bill I introduce today augments last year's legislation in that it would provide a statutory authorization for the National Invasive Species Council, established in 1999 by Executive Order 13112. In codifying the Council, this legislation seeks to strengthen and make permanent the Federal interagency cooperation necessary for the management of invasive species. The Council is responsible for coordinating the implementation of the National Management Plan—"Meeting the Invasive Species Challenge."

In the development of this legislation, I have worked with a number of environmental and science organizations including the newly formed National Environmental Coalition on Invasive Species, which includes the American Lands Alliance, the Center for International Environmental Law, Defenders of Wildlife, Environmental Defense, Environmental Law Institute, Great Lakes United, the International Center for Technology Assessment, National Wildlife Federation, National Wildlife Refuge Association, The Nature Conservancy, and the Union of Concerned Scientists. These organizations, along with Audubon, the Aldo Leopold Foundation and American Fisheries Society, are also offering their strong support for my legislation.

I look forward to working with all interested parties as well as the members of the Resources Committee to facilitate the enactment of this important legislation.

POEM BY DULCE MURILLA OF SAN LEANDRO HIGH SCHOOL

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with you the wisdom of a student in my district. At one of my recent town meetings while we were discussing people's concerns with the President's war with Iraq, teacher Karen Green rose to read a poem by ninth grader Dulce Murilla of San Leandro High School.

Sometimes we need to pause and listen to our children—who often have meaningful insights into even the world's largest problems. I commend this poem to your attention.

It's all 'bout the war in Iraq
what are these dumb fools on crack?!

Don't you see all the lives that have been
taken

and how many souls have been taken

I hate these moments in history

Like they say life before your eyes

And that our government is full of lies

And ask myself why

why why Why

why all the pain

why all the tears

all these fears that haunt us behind each corner

this is all so complicated

Did you hear that missile

and did you hear that bomb

Imagine all the lives that have been taken

and all those children without their parents

can't we have some peace

and just stop the damn tease

Doesn't it break your heart

'cause i feel my heart falling apart

after each child that dies

and each woman that is burned

I wish the soldiers would've thought and

turned

turned back to their homeland to the USA

But hey what's there for me to say

HONORING DR. KENNETH E.
MITCHEM

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Kenneth Mitchem, who is one of the Central Valley's most outstanding citizen leaders. As a doctor he has dedicated himself to increasing the availability of medical services to his community and as such he has touched many lives. As his friends and family gather to celebrate Dr. Mitchem's numerous achievements, I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in saluting his most accomplished career.

After Dr. Mitchem graduated from the University of Health Sciences College of Osteopathic Medicine he opened his practice in Mokane, Missouri. In 1957 he moved his practice to Camdenton, Missouri. There in the midst of the Ozark Mountains he was the only full time doctor. With the nearest hospital 65 miles away he opened his practice as a clinic, two-bed emergency hospital, and birthing center. This clinic was complete with a laboratory,

X-ray capabilities, and pharmacy. In his clinic he treated everything from broken bones and car accidents to delivering babies.

In 1969 he moved to Turlock, California where he joined the office of Drs. Stanley Todd and Hugh Washburn. As a general physician and surgeon, Dr. Mitchem was able to provide medical care for thousands of patients in the Central Valley at a time when there were few doctors in this area.

Not only is Dr. Mitchem widely respected as a very important and competent physician but he is also widely respected in the community for all of his public service. In the past Dr. Mitchem has served as a board member to the Stanislaus County Medical Society. Currently he serves as a member of the Board of Directors to the Stanislaus Foundation for Medical Care. Not only has he displayed an incredible amount of integrity and dedication to his colleagues, but he has worked to increase the availability of medical services to patients throughout our community.

As a Medical Advisor to the Elness Convalescent Hospital, the Bel Air Lodge, and the Hale Aloha Convalescent Hospital, he has demonstrated his commitment to seniors and the important medical care they need.

Dr. Mitchem also serves his community as a Board Member of the Creative Alternatives Board. As a member of this board he helps run three separate programs in our community. These programs include a foster family agency, a residential care program, and non public schools. This board was established in 1976, and with Dr. Mitchem's assistance, has helped hundreds in our community. His dedication to children, families, and seniors is astounding. Dr. Mitchem is truly an invaluable member of our community.

Mr. Speaker, on May 29th, as Dr. Kenneth E. Mitchem's friends and family gathered to honor his years of incredible service to the medical community and his patients, he was honored as the recipient of the John Darroch Memorial Award by the Stanislaus Medical Society. His successes are considerable, and it is a great honor for me to have the opportunity to pay tribute to his contributions. I ask all my colleagues to join with me in wishing Dr. Kenneth E. Mitchem continued success in all of his future endeavors.

HONORING MR. ABDEL SALEM

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to honor Mr. Abdel Salem on the occasion of his retirement as City Manager of El Centro, California in my Congressional District. Abdel was honored by his friends and colleagues at a Farewell Dinner on May 30, 2003.

A native of Facous, Egypt, near the Suez Canal, Abdel was born into a farming family, along with two brothers and two sisters. He earned his Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from Alexandria University in Alexandria, Egypt in 1965. Influenced by an uncle who had earned his Doctorate Degree from the University of California at Berkeley, Abdel came to North America in the early 1970s—first to Toronto and then to New York City. He

has furthered his education through post-graduate courses in Public Administration at San Diego State University.

Choosing to move to sunny Imperial Valley of California, Abdel became Assistant Finance Director of El Centro in 1973 and was promoted to Finance Director four years later. Then came an appointment in 1980 to Acting City Manager and to City Manager in 1981. He has also served as Executive Director of the city's Redevelopment Agency and Executive Director of the Community Development Commission.

He has been involved in many roles in the organizations and activities of Imperial Valley. He is past chairman of the Imperial Valley Emergency Communications Authority, past chairman of the Imperial Valley City/County Managers Association, and a founding board member of the Imperial Valley Economic Development Corporation. He served as secretary/treasurer and president of the Optimist Club and is past chairman of the Oratorical Contest of Optimist International/Southern California District.

Abdel is also a member of the International City Managers Association, the California City Managers Executive Committee, the Community Redevelopment Agencies Association, and the League of Cities Fiscal Reform Committee, as well as the League of California Cities Committee on Diversity.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Abdel Salem for these many fine contributions to our community. Upon his retirement, he leaves the City of El Centro a far better place. He is joined in celebrating his accomplishments by his wife, Samia, a teacher at Southwest High School, and his children, Sherif and Omneya, Salma, and Kareem. Sherif received his Bachelors' Degree in Biology in 1998 from USD and is currently employed at a biotech company in Irvine as a microbiologist. Omneya, his wife, is an architect, and they reside in San Diego. In 2001, Salma received her Masters' Degree in Human Development and Psychology from Harvard University. Kareem is Vice President of the Class of 2003 and an honor student at Southwest High School.

My best wishes go to Abdel Salem and his family upon his completion of a fruitful and noteworthy term as El Centro's City Manager. He will be missed!

IN RECOGNITION OF MATTHEW
BRONFMAN

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Matthew Bronfman for his numerous achievements during his years of service to the 92nd Street Y. A dedicated and passionate philanthropist, Mr. Bronfman has long been a guiding force behind the Y, one of New York City's premier cultural institutions.

The 92nd Street Y is a New York City landmark, having been in operation for nearly 130 years. Founded in 1874, the Y has become a center for people of all races, ethnic backgrounds and religions to meet and participate in activities ranging from concerts at the Tisch