

under the bill. Briefly, a desalinization facility would be built on Oahu, capable of producing 5 million gallons of potable water a day. Secondly, on the leeward side of the Big Island of Hawaii, a facility is to be built creating sub-surface wetlands and an open surface wetland to treat effluent and generate useable water. The third project, in Lahaina, Maui, is to expand the existing recycled water distribution system so that numerous commercial users can substitute readily available recycled water appropriately where currently potable water is used.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to help find solutions to water development, conservation, reuse and recycling in Hawaii.

HONORING JESSE M. HARRISON

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Jesse M. Harrison of Rocky Hill, Connecticut. Mr. Harrison is a veteran of the Second World War, and I recently had the privilege of presenting him with the Distinguished Flying Cross, which he earned nearly 60 years ago during his service as an Air Force pilot, but never received.

Mr. Harrison, now 82, served in the Air Force from March 20, 1943 to January 8, 1946. He piloted an aircraft on D-Day, June 6, 1944 at about 1:00 am carrying 17 paratroopers from the allied base in England to their "drop zone" behind German lines in Ste. Mare Eglise, France, only miles from the Normandy beaches. Two of the three planes in Mr. Harrison's group went down in flames under heavy German fire, however First Lieutenant Harrison, then 24, dropped his aircraft down to tree top level and took complicated evasive actions to avoid German fire. After overshooting the drop zone because of the German fire, he returned to the drop zone and the paratroopers dropped and hit their mark. When he returned to base in England, his aircraft had 67 holes in it from German gunfire.

On September 19, 1944, Mr. Harrison was again the pilot of a plane flying over the Netherlands towing a glider with 10 American soldiers and a jeep on board to their drop zone near German lines. His plane came under heavy enemy fire and his crew bailed out after the plane caught fire and began losing altitude. Were Harrison to bail out as well, the troops on the glider he was towing would likely have had to let go early, resulting in their death or capture. Mr. Harrison alone continued to guide the glider with his burning aircraft to their drop zone. After dropping the glider at their mark, Mr. Harrison had to walk through a wall of flame to reach his exit door—with the plane only 300 feet from the ground and falling—to jump. He was assisted by two Dutch priests who found him. Mr. Harrison suffered 2nd and 3rd degree burns from his waist to his face and spent 15 months recovering, receiving numerous skin grafts.

It was a privilege for me to be able to present him with his well-deserved medal on behalf of an eternally grateful Nation with all his family and friends present at Rocky Hill Town Hall on Wednesday, May 28, 2003. Mr.

Harrison is one of the thousands of real life heroes whose story must be told again and again so that each new generation of Americans will know that heroes do indeed walk among us, and that we must never forget the service and sacrifice our veterans gave for this Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in thanking and honoring Jesse Harrison for his service to the Nation.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, today the House of Representatives took up H. Res. 231, a resolution supporting Peace Officers Memorial Day, which took place on May 15, and honoring law enforcement officers who were killed or disabled in the line of duty. I want to thank my colleague Mr. HEFLEY for sponsoring this important legislation again this year, and wholeheartedly back this important resolution.

Supporting law enforcement is very important to me. Before coming to Congress in 1993, I served for over 12 years as a Michigan state police officer for the Escanaba City Police Department. I was the founder and have continuously served as co-chair of the House Law Enforcement Caucus for the past 11 years.

Since September 11, 2001, many in this nation and this Congress have come to realize the importance of the sacrifices made by our law enforcement officers. Every day law enforcement men and women protect and serve, often putting their own lives at risk. In Michigan alone, over 40 officers have given their lives in the line of duty over the past 15 years.

Peace Officers Memorial Day brings us together in honoring the extreme sacrifice our nation's law enforcement and public safety officers make to our communities and our nation every day.

I think it is important as we discuss this important resolution, to resolve to focus in Congress on providing the necessary funding and support to law enforcement in the growing challenges they face.

I am hopeful that my colleagues will follow up on their support of this resolution, and continue our commitment to law enforcement by supporting these important funding needs. It is the least we can do for those who put their lives on the line every day.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WALLY HERGER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. HERGER. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent on Monday, June 2 and Tuesday, June 3. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows on the following rollcall votes: Roll No. 227—"yea"; Roll No. 228—"yea"; Roll No. 229—"yea"; Roll No. 230—"yea";

Roll No. 231—"yea"; Roll No. 232—"yea"; Roll No. 233—"nay"; Roll No. 234—"yea"; and Roll No. 235—"yea".

IN HONOR OF FRANK G. JACKSON

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Frank G. Jackson, President of Cleveland City Council, as he was honored by the Cuyahoga County Democratic Party on May 18, 2003.

Mr. Jackson is a United States veteran, having served our country in Vietnam. After being honorably discharged, he returned to his East 38th Street neighborhood and began attending classes at Cuyahoga Community College. In 1975, he graduated with a Bachelor's degree from Cleveland State University. In 1977, Mr. Jackson was awarded a Master's degree in Urban Studies from CSU. In 1983, after working his way through law school as a night clerk at Cleveland Municipal Clerk's Office, Mr. Jackson was awarded a law degree from the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, and worked as an assistant county prosecutor until his 1990 election to Cleveland City Council, representing Ward 5.

For the past 13 years, Mr. Jackson has focused his efforts on revitalizing the housing and commercial aspects of the Ward 5 community, and has done so by working closely with neighborhood leaders and development organizations, and by setting a tone of integrity, diligence, commitment and cooperation among City Council members and City administrators.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor of Mr. Frank G. Jackson, President of Cleveland City Council, as we recognize his outstanding contribution to our community. Mr. Jackson's work, expertise and dedication have served to improve and strengthen our urban neighborhoods, bringing light and hope to the citizens of Ward 5, and to our entire community.

TRANSPORTATION CRUNCH TIME
IN OUR NATIONAL PARKS

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, with nearly 300 million visitors to our National Park System each year, there are times when the roads in America's Crown Jewels look little different than the scene on I-395 into the District of Columbia during morning rush hour. The level of traffic congestion being experienced in many of our National Parks not only diminishes the visitor experience, but is adversely impacting the resource values these parks were established to protect in the first place.

While the automobile will continue to reign supreme, our National Parks and the people who visit them are suffering from a lack of alternative transportation opportunities. To address this situation, today I am introducing the Transit in Parks Act (TRIP).

Recognizing the growing problems many of America's 'crown jewels' are experiencing as a

result of high visitation levels, Congress in the last major federal highway and transit reauthorization law known as TEA 21 required the Secretaries of Transportation and Interior to undertake a study of alternative transportation needs in National Parks. The study found a pressing need to increase transit opportunities in order to relieve traffic congestion, enhance visitor accessibility, preserve sensitive resources and reduce pollution. However, it identified a number of barriers to implementing successful transit systems in National Parks, including the lack of a dedicated funding source.

The TRIP bill carries out the study findings by establishing a Transit in Parks Program to be administered by the Secretary of Transportation (Federal Transit Administration) and the Secretary of the Interior (National Park Service). The program would generally follow existing law requirements for mass transportation as it relates to the planning and development of transit facilities and would create a transit counterpart to the Federal Highway Administration's Parkways and Park Roads program. The legislation proposes a \$90 million annual allocation for the Transit in Parks Program from the Mass Transit Account of the Highway Trust Fund.

It should be noted that the National Park Service is currently using on average \$11 million of its \$165 million annual Parkways and Park Roads allocation for alternative transportation. This amount is insufficient to meet the alternative transportation needs for units of the National Park System identified by the TEA 21 study of approximately \$90 million a year. Moreover, as the study noted, this shift in funding increases the gap between available funding and the amount needed to maintain the rapidly deteriorating and already underfunded park roadway system.

Currently, we are squandering some of our most unique natural resource heritage contained in units of the National Park System as a result of a relatively small investment in alternative transportation facilities. It is my hope that the funding in this bill will be additive to the extensively documented but unmet rural and urban transit funding needs which must be addressed in the TEA 21 reauthorization.

THE MENTALLY ILL OFFENDER
TREATMENT AND CRIME REDUC-
TION ACT OF 2003

HON. TED STRICKLAND

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 5, 2003

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act, the companion to a bill introduced in the Senate today by Senator DEWINE.

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, over 16 percent of adults incarcerated in U.S. jails and prisons have a mental illness. In addition, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention reports that over 20 percent of youth in the juvenile justice system have serious mental health problems, and

many more have co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders.

These statistics, however, cannot adequately describe how devastating the combination of untreated mental illness and the criminal justice system can be for both an individual and the system. Today I had the pleasure to meet Tom Lane. Tom, a 43-year-old man who lives in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, now works for the National Alliance of the Mentally Ill (NAMI) as the Director of the Office of Consumer Affairs. However, just a few years ago in July 1997, Tom was suffering from severe depression. He was a cabinet-maker who had sustained a head injury from a construction accident that caused him to have seizures and prevented him from working. When he called a suicide hotline, police were dispatched. The officers put him in jail, where he did not receive treatment for depression and was not allowed to take his anti-seizure medication. When he started suffering two seizures a day, he was hospitalized. Upon his release from the hospital he still did not receive any treatment or recommendation of treatment for his mental illness and for days he slept in the bushes outside the hospital. Fortunately, Tom was eventually able to contact his family from a pay phone and they came to his rescue. Once he began receiving treatment, Tom was able to get back on his feet. Today he is a highly functioning, highly effective professional advocate for people with mental illness.

Tom's story illustrates how easy it is for a person with mental illness to become entangled with the criminal justice system. Untreated mental illness often leads to behaviors that attract the attention of police officers. If a person with mental illness does not receive treatment, his or her condition almost definitely will worsen when they are in custody. Generally, the criminal justice system is not equipped to identify and ensure people with mental illness find appropriate treatment programs, either through diversion into community treatment or within a jail or prison. The bill I am introducing seeks to make sure people like Tom Lane don't fall through the cracks. It encourages collaboration between the mental health treatment and the criminal justice systems. This collaboration is essential for ensuring mentally ill offenders are given the treatment they need.

The Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act of 2003 is phase two of an effort that started in the 106th Congress, when Senator DEWINE and I successfully passed America's Law Enforcement and Mental Health Project (P.L. 106-515). This bill created a Department of Justice grant program assisting State and local governments with the establishment of mental health courts. Mental health courts—which are modeled on drug courts—provide specialized dockets in non-adversarial settings to bring mental health professionals, social workers, public defenders and prosecutors together to divert mentally ill offenders into a treatment plan. The goals of a mental health court are to expand access to mental health treatment, improve the community's response to mentally ill offenders, and reduce recidivism among the mentally ill population. I am pleased that this program has been incredibly popular.

The Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act of 2003 will build on America's Law Enforcement and Mental Health Project by providing additional resources for communities that wish to create mental health courts. The new bill represents a significant commitment to addressing the needs of both the criminal justice system and the mentally ill offender population. The bill will create a grants program for communities that will provide resources for diversion programs across the spectrum of the criminal justice community, including prebooking diversion programs like those that have been so successful in Los Angeles, California and Memphis, Tennessee. Communities will be able to design programs that provide mental health treatment in jails and in prisons. And finally, grants will be available for transitional or aftercare programs that seek to ensure offenders are provided appropriate treatment and care when they transition from jail or prison back into the community when they have completed their sentences.

The bill is intended to give communities much flexibility to design and operate the programs they identify as most appropriate for meeting their needs, and grant funds will be able to be used for planning, establishing a structure, and funding treatment. All successful grant applicants will be required to demonstrate collaboration between the criminal justice and mental health treatment agencies in a community. Too often, mentally ill offenders fall through the cracks because the relevant systems in a community do not work together. This lack of collaboration is detrimental to both the mentally ill offender as well as the stability of the criminal justice system. Therefore, criminal justice and mental health treatment agencies will be required to apply together for the grants established by the bill, compelling the collaboration that is needed to get those who are mentally ill and coming in contact with the criminal justice system the mental health and substance abuse treatment they need. In addition, the bill requires that grant applicants ensure mentally ill offenders are connected to education, job training and placement, and housing programs.

In addition, the bill calls for an Interagency Task Force to be established at the Federal level. Task Force members will include: the Attorney General; the Secretaries of Health and Human Services, Labor, Education, Veterans Affairs, and Housing and Urban Development; and the Commissioner of Social Security. The Task Force will be charged with identifying ways that Federal departments can respond collaboratively to the needs of mentally ill adults and juveniles.

I strongly believe that encouraging collaboration at the Federal, State, and local levels of government is essential to ensuring that people with mental illness are able to access the mental health treatment and other support programs they need.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass this bill and make our communities safer for all.