

each year and spanning two generations, the wilderness areas that can be found from the West to East Coasts are a tangible source of pride, progress, and potential for our Nation.

In 1924, at the insistence of forester and future "A Sand County Almanac" author Aldo Leopold, the Forest Service created the very first federally designated wilderness—the Gila Primitive Area. Located north of Silver City, the Gila Wilderness is a gigantic reserve whose boundaries were eventually made into the 558,000-acre wilderness it is today. Senator Clinton Anderson of New Mexico, chairman of what was then called the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, stated that his support of the wilderness system was the direct result of discussions he had held almost 40 years before with Mr. Leopold. The Wilderness Act made the Gila Primitive Area official 40 years later.

After passing Congress with bipartisan support, President Lyndon Johnson signed the Wilderness Act into law on September 3, 1964. By the stroke of President Johnson's pen, the Act created 9.2 million acres of wilderness across the country. Today the system includes 662 areas covering about 105.7 million acres in 44 states, about 4 percent of the United States.

For the first time in American history, the Federal Government protected land as it is and defined wilderness as a place that "in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a member of the natural community who visits but does not remain and whose travels leave only trails."

The Wilderness Act is a deeply personal law to me. The legislation that President Johnson signed was sponsored by Senator Anderson and was guided through Congress at the urging of my father, then Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall. Serving as Interior Secretary for Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson, Stewart Udall's accomplishments during his tenure are numerous: he created new national programs such as the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and the Wilderness Act, which pushed the nation toward a deeper appreciation and protection of its remaining wild spaces. He helped create many new national parks and forests and the first national seashores. Perhaps most importantly, he established a bipartisan consensus on conservation issues that would endure for 20 years.

I visited with my father recently in Santa Fe about the Wilderness Act. He recalled that President Johnson awarded him 62 ceremonial bill signing pens throughout his service to the White House. As he signed the Wilderness Act into law, President Johnson spoke of Secretary Udall and his staff "going all over the country, looking for places to save." My father recalls the remark as one of the highest compliments he has ever received; this in a lifetime of distinguished service to his country.

With 2.1 percent of its land area protected as wilderness, New Mexico harbors 23 wilderness areas. I have introduced legislation which would designate the first wilderness approved in New Mexico since 1987—the 10,794-acre Ojito Wilderness Study Area. The Bureau of Land Management recommended wilderness status for the Ojito area in 1992. We have had hearings in both the House and Senate on this bipartisan proposal. The bill is strongly sup-

ported in New Mexico by a diverse coalition. It is my sincere hope we can pass this legislation before the 108th Congress adjourns. Ojito would remain a natural place, perfect for recreation and quiet contemplation.

My legislation would also provide for the sale of about 13,000 acres of adjacent Bureau of Land Management holdings to Zia Pueblo, land that holds much historic and religious significance to the pueblo. All of it would remain open to the public. As such, the pueblo would be able to unite two separate pieces of its reservation, and in total, 24,000 acres would be preserved and protected. Not only is this place incredibly beautiful, it also contains rich cultural and archeological values. Designating the Ojito as wilderness will ensure that this vast landscape remains as it is, in all its natural glory, for future generations to treasure.

Mr. Speaker, the 40th anniversary of the Wilderness Act is an opportunity to rekindle the public interest in safeguarding our Nation's unique natural heritage for future generations to enjoy. I urge my colleagues to join with me to ensure we leave a rich legacy of unspoiled wildlands for our families, for our future.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO ADAM
AIRCRAFT

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 7, 2004

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, one of my greatest joys is to see businesses in my district flourish. Today, I am honored to recognize Adam Aircraft based out of Centennial Airport in Englewood, Colorado. Adam Aircraft designs and manufactures advanced aircraft for civil and government markets.

On August 17, 2004, the company marked the first anniversary of the A700's debut, which is undergoing initial flight testing. The A700 being the first personal aircraft with an installed interior featuring seven seats and an aft lavatory.

In addition to the A700, Adam Aircraft has also made a big showing at the EAA AirVenture 2004 with the A500. The A500 has accumulated three national and two world records for speed over a recognized course and is currently approaching FAA certification by the end of 2004.

Adam Aircraft is building a strong customer base and took a record nine orders for its two aircraft models at the EAA AirVenture 2004 show. Currently they have also taken over 60 orders for the A500 and they promise to be a strong employer for Colorado for the years to come.

Mr. Speaker, the back bone of any community is the businesses that operate there. It is my distinct pleasure to honor one of those businesses Adam Aircraft here today, and wish them all the best in her future endeavors.

CAPTAIN SCOTT SHIELDS, HIS GOLDEN RETRIEVER, BEAR, AND ALL OF THE BRAVE RESCUE DOGS WHO SERVED DURING THE 9/11 TRAGEDY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 7, 2004

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the achievements of Captain Scott Shields, his golden retriever, Bear, and the more than 300 dogs that served our country at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon after the September 11th terrorist attacks. On that fateful morning, Captain Shields and Bear answered the call for assistance at the World Trade Center and were one of the first search and rescue teams to enter the devastated area. Bear and other highly-trained rescue dogs spent the next few days searching in extremely dangerous conditions for those who lost their lives in the attacks.

Scott Shields raised Bear in Westport, Connecticut, where there were no leash laws. As a result, Bear quickly learned to be comfortable maneuvering and taking direction "off leash." In addition to his regular search training, Captain Shields also took Bear to parks, beaches and even obstacle courses to continue his instruction. This preparation proved remarkably useful on the morning of September 11. Trained in disaster management, Captain Shields felt compelled to respond to the disaster and he and Bear drove to what the world would soon recognize as Ground Zero. Captain Shields and Bear entered the disaster site shortly after the second Trade Center tower collapsed to search for those who might have been trapped in the wreckage. Later that day, Captain Shields organized harbor activities, directing boats to transport emergency workers to the Trade Center site.

Bear and his fellow rescue dogs worked in very harsh conditions without the benefits of protective clothing and gas masks. They climbed through piles of debris and squeezed through tunnels of steel and concrete in their attempts to find any signs of human life.

While working in these dangerous conditions, many dogs, including Bear, were injured. Captain Shields and Bear were walking along a steel beam when a piece of twisted metal gouged Bear's back. Although the gash was deep, Bear kept working. Several months later, however, Bear developed a form of skin cancer around the perimeter of the wound. A veterinarian successfully removed the infected tissue, but from then on, Bear's health declined. Bear passed away on September 23, 2002; the following month, hundreds of mourners gathered at his memorial service aboard the aircraft carrier USS *Intrepid*.

In Bear's memory, Captain Shields, along with the New York law firm Proskauer Rose, established the Bear Search and Rescue Foundation to ensure that all dogs who participated in search and rescue operations at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon receive appropriate health care. Additionally, the foundation works diligently to provide equipment and instruction to emergency response teams throughout the country.

Mr. Speaker, I request that my colleagues join me in honoring Bear, Scott Shields and the hundreds of search and rescue teams who

served our nation so bravely on September 11th. To these heroes, I offer my continuing respect, admiration and support.

HONORING NANCY HABERLAND,
OLYMPIC ATHLETE

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 7, 2004

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my constituent, Nancy Haberland, for her participation in the Games of the XXVIIIth Olympiad.

In her Olympic debut this August, Nancy Haberland was forward in the Yngling boat. Ms. Haberland, along with skipper Carol Cronin and middle Liz Filter made up Team Atkins. The yngling class was one of the most closely contested races at the U.S. Olympic trials. In a remarkable achievement, Team Atkins beat out a field that included a previous Yngling world champion, Betsy Alison, and past Olympians Jody Swanson and Cory Sertl. Ms. Haberland has also won numerous national titles in several classes.

Nancy Haberland grew up in Northbrook, Illinois and started sailing at the age of 13. In 1984, she graduated from Miami University in Ohio with a degree in dietetics and management, and she is a registered dietitian. She serves our country now as a sailing coach at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, and I am privileged to represent her in Congress.

It has been said that the trademarks of a champion are, "The will to prepare, the guts to risk, and the desire to be the best." Ms. Haberland certainly possesses all three, and I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating her.

SALUTING AMBASSADOR YUVAL
ROTEM

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 7, 2004

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting Ambassador Yuval Rotem, who served as consul general of Israel in Los Angeles from September 1999 to August 2004. Ambassador Rotem recently wrote an article for the Los Angeles Daily News on his experiences in Southern California that I would like to share with you today.

L.A.'s STORY ABOUT LIVING SIDE BY SIDE
(By Yuval Rotem)

Critics say Los Angeles is only image. The city, they claim, presents an illusion to the world much like the movies Hollywood projects on its big screens. The myth goes that it's a city of facades, with the favored tools being the editor's airbrush or the plastic surgeon's scalpel. There are no friendships here, only contacts and connections.

After five years on "extended vacation" in Southern California, I have found these statements far more superficial than the city they decry. As a permanent resident of the tormented Middle East, my time here has left me in awe of the wide variety of reli-

gions, colors, languages and life philosophies that intermingle in Los Angeles. To be a minority is to be in the majority in L.A., and despite its fragmented sprawl, coexistence is real, with each community adding to the flavor of the city.

That is not to say, however, there aren't absurd aspects about life in Los Angeles. There is, for example, the infatuation with cars and the impossibly tangled web of freeways. When we "bump into" people, it is likely in the most literal sense—a fender bender on the 405.

It is little wonder, then, that I learned one of L.A.'s more important lessons with the help of my car. Traveling on the 10 alone opened my eyes to the multitude of faces, languages, cuisines and cultures that run into each other here.

Starting in Venice, the stereotypical images of L.A.—beach bums soaking in the sun and fitness fanatics pumping iron at Muscle Beach—abound. Moving east, the Jewish neighborhood of the Pico corridor became a second home for me. On my way downtown, I stopped in Koreatown, historic West Adams district and eventually in East L.A.—making friends in each community: each group diverse, each group proud, each group American.

I traveled this freeway and others often during my tenure here—visiting a variety of communities along the way. What I have learned here has given me a Thomas Guide of sorts to maneuver and navigate through our differences to arrive ultimately at our similarities.

Dorothy Parker once described Los Angeles as "72 suburbs in search of a city," but I sometimes wonder how badly they really want to find it. The communities I passed on my drive down the 10 didn't seem to be looking for it; they already appeared to be perfectly at home and at peace as Angelenos. On July 4, for instance, people from all over this city simply don't appear interested to gather en masse at some civic center, but prefer neighborhood parades, local fireworks displays, and backyard barbecues.

Despite this geographic disconnection, the people of Los Angeles are nonetheless remarkably united. They share the same debates about Kobe vs. Shaq, the same frustrations with the traffic, the same concerns about schools and public safety, the same appreciation for the amazing beauty and vibrant cultural life that L.A. has to offer.

Most importantly, the diverse population of this city shares a truly laudable spirit of respect and tolerance for "the other." There have been, of course, many tough times. However, friendships and relationships that transcend ethnicity and religion are the norm here. By and large, people relate to each other as individuals—not as groups, not as categories, not as stereotypes.

As one who comes from the Middle East, where ethnic divisions have paralyzed us, I am in awe of the positive cross-cultural interaction between the people of Los Angeles.

From the inside, it is easy to see the problems—social and economic inequality, tensions that sometimes bubble to the surface, the challenge of educating 750,000 children who collectively speak more than 80 languages. It would be easy to focus on the chaotic events that have marked my time here: the energy crisis, wildfires, earthquakes and the recall election. Yet to me, an outsider, Los Angeles is something of a miracle.

At the end of the day, you see millions of people from every background imaginable living side by side, working together and forging a future under the bright California sun. In today's world, where terrorism, prejudice and hatred widen the already-existing gaps between peoples, this is an inspiration.

As I return to my own homeland, I carry with me the hope and promise that Los Angeles offers to the future—a fitting going-away present from the city of dreams.

TRIBUTE TO PETER VANDERKAAAY

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 7, 2004

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Peter Vanderkaay, a resident of Oakland Township, Michigan, on his Olympic gold medal he won at the XXVIII Olympic Games in Athens, Greece. He has made all of us from Oakland County and Michigan proud.

Peter won his gold medal on the men's 4 × 200 meter freestyle swimming relay team, swimming the third leg of the race. Peter and his teammates, Michael Phelps, Ryan Lochte, and Klete Keller, set a new American record on their way to beating Australia by 0.13 seconds. It is the first time an American Olympic team has won this race since 1996.

Peter was a standout in high school swimming for Rochester Adams High School where he earned four varsity letters. He is a Michigan State champion in the 200 yard freestyle and a two-time Michigan State champion in the 500 yard freestyle. He was also selected as the 2002 Oakland Press Scholar Athlete of the Year.

Peter will return to the University of Michigan this fall as a junior and will continue to swim for the school and Club Wolverine. His accomplishments are overwhelming and impressive, especially considering it has only taken him two years to reach these achievements. Peter is a seven-time NCAA All-American, was the 2004 Co-Big Ten Conference Swimmer of the Year, the 2003 Big Ten Conference Freshman of the Year, and a six-time Big Ten Champion.

Being a world-class swimmer takes dedication and resolve. It takes sacrifice and long hours of practice. It is not always immediately rewarding and there are many challenges before becoming a champion. I commend Peter on his determination.

I also realize raising a swimmer is not easy and that is why Peter's parents, Mark and Robin, deserve recognition for their hard work over the years. In fact, they have raised four swimmers; Peter's brothers Christian, Alex and Dane are accomplished swimmers in their own right.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Peter Vanderkaay on his Olympic success and wish him all the best in his future endeavors, both in and out of the pool.

HONORING RHADI FERGUSON

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 7, 2004

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Rhadi Ferguson, a Maryland resident who proudly represented the United States as a member of its Judo Team in the games of the XXVIIIth Olympiad.