

together representatives of 10 Federal agencies, private sector hazardous material shippers and carriers, and State and local governments to study cross-cutting topics in hazardous materials transportation.

Priority will be given in the selection of research projects to topics that yield results immediately applicable to risk analysis and mitigation and/or that will strengthen the ability of first responders to respond to incidents and accidents involving hazardous materials, among other topics.

My bill mandates that the research program conduct studies that will inform the routing of hazardous shipments and the development of regulations regarding mandatory routing decisions, the formulation of appropriate packaging requirements for those hazardous materials that are most frequently involved in release incidents, the development of reasonable models of State and local risk response and management plans that effectively address both safety and security considerations, and the definition of the roles and responsibilities of carriers and shippers in the hazardous materials events response and even event response procedures that can be consistently applied across all transportation modes.

Without the ability to adequately research and respond to issues in hazardous materials transportation that are multimodal in scope and national in application, our ability to make informed legislative, regulatory, and operational decisions regarding hazardous materials transportation is unacceptably limited.

Therefore, I urge you to join me in supporting the formulation of a cooperative research program for hazardous materials transportation by cosponsoring this important legislation.

#### HONORING VOLKMAR WENTZEL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOLLOHAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Speaker, on Friday evening, the German Embassy here in Washington will pay tribute to a man of extraordinary talent, a native son whose artistry with a camera has opened the eyes the world over.

Today I rise to salute this remarkable gentleman and his distinguished career. Volkmar Wentzel had an unusual introduction to photography. His father was a photochemist and built a darkroom at the family home in Dresden. He would send his boys there when they misbehaved. One day young Volkmar happened to hit the switch that turned on the red inspection light. There in the darkroom he saw the magic of photography for the very first time.

When he was 9, he and his father built a pinhole camera. It was another defining experience. In his words, "My camera became the passport to a fas-

cinating life." Two years later the Wentzels left Germany, escaping the turmoil that followed World War I. They started a new life here in America, in New York.

As a young man, Volkmar set off in search of adventure, but his grand vision to travel to South America stalled in Washington, D.C. By chance, he made new friends who steered to him to Aurora, West Virginia. A colony called the Youghiogheny Forest had been started there by a mix of artists, musicians, writers, doctors and others. It is where they spent slow periods during the Great Depression. They hired Volkmar to look after their property and studios. To our great pride, that is where his career began, in the mountains of Preston County.

The first images he captured were the breathtaking beauty of the countryside. Soon he focused his lens on the people. He gave farm families pictures of their children in exchange for vegetables from their gardens.

One day Eleanor Roosevelt stopped in Aurora for lunch. She was on a trip to Arthurdale, a New Deal Homestead community that she had taken under her wing. The First Lady bought a few of the postcards Volkmar had made. The real profit was not the price she paid, rather, it was the encouragement that Volkmar felt.

He was inspired to come back to Washington to pursue a professional career, and what an amazing career it has been.

I am sure that many of my colleagues have been dazzled by his book, "Washington by Night." It gives a dramatically different view of the city's best known landmarks. Even today, more than 60 years after he captured those images, they still enhance our sense of wonder.

The same is certainly true of Volkmar's long and distinguished career with the National Geographic. From the Himalayas to Newfoundland, his work gave us rich new perspectives, and new understanding, of the world around us. And that is what makes him such a compelling artist. His keen eye, his technical skill, his respectful nature, his gracious manner, all of these things are evident in every photograph he takes.

Of course I have a special affinity for his award-winning work in West Virginia, and I am always proud to tell people that Volkmar and his wife, Viola, consider Aurora to be their home and are active in the local historical society.

The Wentzels recently celebrated his 90th birthday at their Washington residence. Tomorrow's reception will allow his friends and admirers to mark the happy occasion and to salute the work of this outstanding talent and true gentleman.

#### REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBERS AS COSPONSORS OF H.R. 227

Mr. SWEENEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman

from North Carolina (Mr. JONES), the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN), the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDREE), the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN), and the gentleman from California (Mr. FARR) be removed as cosponsors of H.R. 227. I am the sponsor of H.R. 227, and their names were added in error.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

#### BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I want to be able to join my colleagues who are here on the floor and will be presenting a Special Order in tribute to black history. I know my colleagues will begin an hour in just a few minutes, and I want to add to their offering this afternoon by sharing the importance of acknowledging this month with something a little bit different.

I am glad that through the calendar year we give an opportunity to be able to recognize the richness of the diversity of Americans. We are in fact a mosaic, not necessarily a melting pot, and we have many months to be able to honor so many different groups. And although this month has been designated as Black History Month, might I say that I look forward to the day that we stand as Americans and we are enriched by all of our cultures and that we respect them throughout the year, and that our classes throughout America are filled with anecdotal stories about all of the pioneers who came to this country, some of us quite differently.

I believe that Black History Month has been established primarily because, of course, the ancestors of those of us who are African Americans came first to this Nation in the bottom of the belly of a slave boat. But through that journey, that dark passage, we came to this Nation recognizing that its very tenets represented our ideals, and that is of opportunity, of sharing, of giving, of excellence.

So today I cite for our colleagues the importance of Black History Month, to be able to share those heroes. I may call a very limited list, because to call the whole roll would be enormous. I know they are familiar names, such as W. E. B. Dubois, George Washington Carver, or Sojourner Truth, the suffragette who may have been left unknown and unexpressed, but we know of her great emancipation work and her work on behalf of women, giving them the opportunity to work.

Harriet Tubman was known as General Moses, who helped to bring slaves through a free America. George White was the last African American to serve in the United States Congress in 1901