

scholar and public servant, Dr. Portia Holmes Shields. While we cannot claim her as a native of our State her extraordinary service as the seventh President of Albany State University has proven that she not only made Georgia her home these past nine years, she made it better.

When Dr. Shields first became President of Albany State University in 1996, she not only faced the challenge of being the first woman in that role, she confronted a campus ravaged by floodwaters. She met the challenge head-on and spearheaded a \$153 million flood-recovery program that brought new life to the Southwest Georgia institution. Yet beyond improvements to the university's face and physical structure, under the direction of Dr. Shields, Albany State University has become an institution to be proud of.

Today, enrollment is up nearly 20 percent as Albany State maintains the third-highest retention rate among the University System of Georgia's 34 colleges and universities. Since the fall of 1996, the average SAT scores of incoming freshmen also jumped by more than 120 points. By following her own personal mission of putting students first, Dr. Shields has helped recruit the best and brightest and has added three new undergraduate programs at the institution including the state of Georgia's only forensic science program. In addition, her prowess as a fundraiser has been instrumental in making her vision for the University possible today and into the future.

This Friday, May 6, 2005, I will join Albany State University in honoring Dr. Portia Holmes Shields and wishing her continued future success in whatever path she might choose. However, here in this hallowed hall, I rise on behalf of the city of Albany, the Second Congressional District and the State of Georgia to honor the extraordinary contribution that Dr. Shields has made to our community and to the many students whose lives she has touched. She will be truly missed.

SMALL BUSINESS BILL OF RIGHTS AND SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my support for the Small Business Bill of Rights (H. Res. 22).

I think it is time we help small businesses so they can in turn help themselves. Small business owners desperately need our help in ensuring they can provide their employees with the best possible benefits.

What better time to consider this bill than on National Small Business Week. I would be remiss if I did not mention that last year's Small Business Person of the year was from Columbus, Georgia. Sheree W. Mitchell started with an SBA loan in 1989 and turned her day care center business, Growing Room Inc., into a \$5 million per year enterprise. I think Sheree should be a poster child for small businesses. She has proven that with persistence and entrepreneur thinking it is possible to build a successful enterprise from scratch.

I also want to congratulate the 2005 SBA Award winners for the state of Georgia: Tom Eaves, President and CEO of Star Software

Systems Corporation in Warner Robins, Georgia—Small Business Person of the Year; Win Roshell, Minority Small Business Champion of the Year; Mountville Mills, Inc., Family-Owned Small Business of the Year; Amanda Rodriguez, Young Entrepreneur of the Year; C. Vance Leavy, Small Business Journalist of the Year.

These folks know what it takes to successfully run a small business and they should be recognized and praised for it. They were selected to be honored based on their record of stability, growth in employment and sales, financial condition, innovation, response to adversity, and community service.

I am strongly supporting H. Res. 22 for people like those I've just named. This piece of legislation clarifies Congressional support for seven key issues importance to every small business. As a former small business owner, I can testify to the importance of each one of these. These seven issues are: reducing health insurance costs through Association Health Plans, ending frivolous lawsuits, red tape relief, tax relief, increasing access to capital, opening access to government contracts and reducing energy costs.

These issues are commonsense rights every small business owner deserves and I hope the passing of this resolution will bring awareness to the seven areas this resolution addresses.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to co-sponsor and vote for the Small Business Bill of Rights.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE U.S. SKI AND SNOWBOARD ASSOCIATION

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a national sports organization that began in Ishpeming, Michigan. The United States Ski and Snowboard Association is the national governing body for Olympic skiing and snowboarding and is celebrating its 100th anniversary on May 6th.

Originally founded as the National Ski Association (NSA) in 1904 by the local Ishpeming Ski Club, the NSA was the birthplace of organized skiing in the United States. The group changed their name to the United States Ski Association in 1962 and, as snowboarding grew in popularity and gained credibility as a sport, the final name change occurred in 1997 to the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association (USSA).

As the governing body for U.S. Olympic ski and snowboarding, the USSA has been consolidated since 1988 with the U.S. Ski Team in Park City, Utah where the team has been based since 1974. However, as a tribute to the founding roots of the organization, the United States National Ski Hall of Fame and Museum is still based in Ishpeming, Michigan where it also celebrates its 50th anniversary May 6th. The Hall of Fame proudly displays photos and short bios of 342 inductees.

In the one hundred year history of the USSA, it is proclaimed as the most diverse of any Olympic Sports organization with seven different athletic sport programs. The USSA Olympic Sports programs include alpine, cross

country, disabled, freestyle, ski jumping, Nordic combined and snowboarding. The USSA manages 14 different men's and women's national teams, accounting for half of the Olympic Winter Games events.

In order to be serious international competitors, the organization requires the tremendous number of athletes to be trained and supported by an ever larger network of people. The USSA is comprised of 30,000 athletes, coaches, officials and volunteers and more than 100,000 parents, supporters and devotees. With this powerhouse of world class talent and support, the USSA should have no problem fulfilling their goal of making the United States of America the best in the world in Olympic skiing and snowboarding by 2006.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the United States Ski and Snowboard Association on their first 100 years and in wishing them well in bringing home the Olympic spirit and the "gold" throughout the next century.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE COLORADO NORTHERN FRONT RANGE MOUNTAIN BACKDROP PROTECTION STUDY ACT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I am again introducing the Colorado Northern Front Range Mountain Backdrop Protection Study Act. I introduced similar bills in the 107th and 108th Congresses.

The bill is intended to help local communities identify ways to protect the Front Range Mountain Backdrop in the northern sections of the Denver-metro area, especially the region just west of the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology site. The Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest includes much of the land in this backdrop area, but there are other lands involved as well.

Rising dramatically from the Great Plains, the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains provides a scenic mountain backdrop to many communities in the Denver metropolitan area and elsewhere in Colorado. The portion of the range within and adjacent to the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest also includes a diverse array of wildlife habitats and provides many opportunities for outdoor recreation.

The open-space character of this mountain backdrop is an important esthetic and economic asset for adjoining communities, making them attractive locations for homes and businesses. But rapid population growth in the northern Front Range area of Colorado is increasing recreational use of the Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest and is also placing increased pressure for development of other lands within and adjacent to that national forest.

We can see this throughout Colorado and especially along the Front Range. Homes and shopping centers are sprawling up valleys and along highways that feed into the Front Range. This development then spreads out along the ridges and mountain tops that make up the backdrop. We are in danger of losing to development many of the qualities that have helped attract new residents. So, it is important to better understand what steps might

be taken to avoid or lessen that risk—and this bill is designed to help us do just that.

Already, local governments and other entities have provided important protection for portions of this mountain backdrop, especially in the northern Denver-metro area. However, some portions of the backdrop in this part of Colorado remain unprotected and are at risk of losing their open-space qualities. This bill acknowledges the good work of the local communities to preserve open spaces along the backdrop and aims to assist further efforts along the same lines.

The bill does not interfere with the authority of local authorities regarding land use planning. It also does not infringe on private property rights. Instead, it will bring the land protection experience of the Forest Service to the table to assist local efforts to protect areas that comprise the backdrop. The bill envisions that to the extent the Forest Service should be involved with federal lands, it will work in collaboration with local communities, the state and private parties.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly believe it is in the national interest for the federal government to assist local communities to identify ways to protect the mountain backdrop in this part of Colorado. The backdrop beckoned settlers westward and presented an imposing impediment to their forward progress that suggested similar challenges ahead. This first exposure to the harshness and humbling majesty of the Rocky Mountain West helped define a region. The pioneers' independent spirit and respect for nature still lives with us to this day. We need to work to preserve it by protecting the mountain backdrop as a cultural and natural heritage for ourselves and generations to come. God may forgive us for our failure to do so, but our children won't.

For the information of our colleagues, I am attaching a fact sheet about this bill.

COLORADO NORTHERN FRONT RANGE

MOUNTAIN BACKDROP PROTECTION STUDY ACT

Generally: The bill would help local communities preserve the Front Range Mountain Backdrop in the northern sections of the Denver-metro area in a region generally west of the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology site.

Front Range Mountain Backdrop: The backdrop consists of the mountainous foothills, the Continental Divide and the peaks in between that create the striking visual backdrop of the Denver-metro area and throughout Colorado. Development in the Denver-metro area is encroaching in the Front Range backdrop area, and thus adversely affecting the esthetic, wildlife, open space and recreational qualities of this geographic feature. Now is the time to shape the future of this part of the Front Range. There is a real but fleeting opportunity to protect both protect Rocky Flats—a "crown jewel" of open space and wildlife habitat—and to assist local communities to protect the scenic, wildlife, and other values of the mountain backdrop.

What the bill does: Study and Report: The bill requires the Forest Service to study the ownership patterns of the lands comprising the Front Range Mountain Backdrop in a region generally west of Rocky Flats, identify areas that are open and may be at risk of development, and recommend to Congress how these lands might be protected and how the federal government could help local communities and residents to achieve that goal.

Lands Covered: The bill identifies the lands in southern Boulder, northern Jefferson and eastern Gilpin Counties in the Sec-

ond Congressional District; specifically, an area west of Rocky Flats and west of Highway 93, south of Boulder Canyon, east of the Peak-to-Peak Highway, and north of the Golden Gate Canyon State Park road.

What the bill would NOT do: Affect Local Planning: The bill is designed to complement existing local efforts to preserve open lands in this region west of Rocky Flats. It will not take the place of—nor disrupt—these existing local efforts.

Affect Private Property Rights: The bill merely authorizes a study. It will not affect any existing private property rights.

Affect the Cleanup of Rocky Flats: The bill would not affect the ongoing cleanup and closure of Rocky Flats nor detract from funding for that effort, and will not affect existing efforts to preserve the options for wildlife and open space protection of Rocky Flats itself.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF DR. KENNETH B. CLARK

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the outstanding life of Dr. Kenneth B. Clark who passed away on May 1, 2005 at his home in Hastings-on-the-Hudson, NY. Dr. Clark was 90 years old.

Dr. Clark was a social scientist best known for his pivotal research used during the Brown v. Board of Education case in 1954. Along with his wife, Mamie Phipps Clark, the two documented studies of the damaging affect on black school children from the separate-but-equal doctrine. As an attorney, Thurgood Marshall successfully used this research in his argument against racial segregation in public schools. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled the practice of racial segregation as unconstitutional because it violated the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.

Dr. Clark was born in the Panama Canal Zone on July 14, 1914. His mother is credited as his model of perseverance and struggle through social issues. Over the objection of his father, Dr. Clark's mother insisted on returning to the United States. She made the solo trip back to New York City with Clark and his sister Beulah, in 1919. As a seamstress at a sweatshop in the garment district, Dr. Clark's mother supported her children and became one of the first stewards for the women's garment union. "Somehow she communicated to me the excitement of people doing things together to help themselves," Dr. Clark once said.

In addition to his work in psychology, Dr. Clark had many of his own groundbreaking achievements as an educator and leader. In 1940, he became the first African-American to earn a doctoral degree at Columbia University in New York. His wife later became the second African American to earn a doctoral degree there. Dr. Clark served as the American Psychological Association president, and in 1960, he was the first tenured African-American professor at the City College of New York. The State Department hired him as a personnel division consultant from 1961-62. By 1966, Dr. Clark was a member of the New York State Board of Regents where he remained for 20 years. After retiring from the

Board of Regents, Dr. Clark set up a consulting company that specialized in equal employment opportunity and affirmative action.

Dr. Clark is survived by his daughter, Kate Harris, his son, Hilton B. Clark, three grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Mamie Clark died in 1983. Dr. Clark's work as an educator and researcher remains a lasting legacy for civil rights issues. He was motivated by belief that a "racist system inevitably destroys and damages human beings; it brutalizes and dehumanizes them, black and white alike."

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Clark was an eminent scholar whose legacy will be cherished and remembered. He was a mighty influence who brought people together across racial lines. His spirit and insight were instrumental in establishing equality in education and beyond. The impact of Dr. Clark's work helped to raise the dignity and worth of all Americans.

CONGRATULATIONS TO WILLIAM
H. CROCKER SCHOOL ON ITS
FOURTH CONSECUTIVE NO CHILD
LEFT BEHIND BLUE RIBBON
SCHOOL AWARD

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the William H. Crocker Middle School of Hillsborough, California, located in my Congressional district, for its 4th consecutive year as a recipient of the National Blue Ribbon Award.

For the year of 2004, California State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Jack O'Connell announced the 33 public and six private schools in California selected by United States Secretary of Education Rod Paige, as No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Blue Ribbon Schools.

Schools who receive this honor demonstrate excellence in education and genuine investment in the value of that education for our children. It is my honor to congratulate each and every faculty member and parent of Crocker Middle School whose dedication to the education of their children indisputably earned Crocker Middle School the honor of being a Blue Ribbon School.

Mr. Speaker, this 21-year old national recognition program sponsored by the U.S. department of Education encourages states to nominate public kindergarten through grade twelve schools that are either academically superior or demonstrate dramatic gains in student achievement. The schools endure a rigorous application process, with success resting mostly on test scores, growth, and achievement in reading and math over three years. All schools selected as winners met the 2004 Adequate Yearly Progress criteria. Additionally, all schools have already been named as a California Distinguished School, or meet the qualification required to apply for this state awards program.

On November 5, 2004, Crocker Middle School received the 2004 No Child Left Behind National Blue Ribbon Schools Award in Washington D.C. On February 7, 2005, I was invited to celebrate this accolade on the campus of Crocker. As my two daughters Annette