

makes an outstanding arrest while confronting an armed and dangerous perpetrator. This year a Commendation for Heroism will be awarded to the following people: Officer Evelyn Carlin; Det. Wayne Matthews.

The Commendation for Merit is given to an officer who has demonstrated intelligent and valuable police service. This year the Commendation for Merit will be awarded to the following people: Det. Bret Johnson; Inspector Dave McClintock; Sr. Investigator Patricia Taulane; Police Officer Thomas Jeffers; Patrolman Kevin Koykka; Sgt. Paul Sims; Ptlm. William Hawkins, Jr.; Ptlm. Sean Plasket; Ptlm. Howard Dawson, IV; Ptlm. Don Stone; Ptlm. Thomas Farrell; Sr. Investigator C. DeCristofor; Investigator Edgardo Perez; Investigator Carlos Plaza; Det. Angel Ramos; Sr. Inv. Martin Wolf; Inv. James Bruno; Det. Eric White; Det. Sgt. Michael Basileo; Sr. Inv. Ron Moten; Inv. Miguel Rubert; Inv. Felix Martinez; Sr. Inv. Steve Settles; Det. Thomas Kalick; Sr. Inv. Diane Wilson; Det. Wayne Matthews; Sr. Inv. John Greer; Det. Edward Fallon; Det. Sgt. Christopher Leone; Inv. Michael Dougherty; Inv. Matthew McKeown; Inv. James Pisano; Inv. Robert McCross; Inv. Fawn Ackerman; Inv. Catherine Fisher; Inv. Jim Dougherty; Sgt. W. Mahan; Inv. John Ellis; Det. Scott Beasley; Det. Michael Meyers; Sgt. Frank Gagliardi; Ptlm. Michael Williams; Ptlm. Keith Barrett; Sgt. Neil Larson; Inv. Amy Jewusiak; Inv. Mike Molle; P/O Gary Badger; P/O Timothy Tedesco; P/O Robert Kempf; Off. J. Valsquez; Off. Parrish Powers; Off. Robert Chew; Off. Michael Fosler; Det. Kirk Williams.

A Letter of Commendation is awarded to an officer in recognition of police service, who is exceptional, and has served beyond the requirements of routine duty. This year a Letter of Commendation will be awarded to the following people: Inv. Janene Bahr; Det. Ken Nelson; Sr. Inv. Brian DeCosmo; Ptlm. William Lyons; Ptlm. Thomas Harchaw; Ptlm. Sean McGann; Inv. William Rummel.

A Citizen's Commendation may be awarded to any person who provides a significant contribution to the public safety through a specific act of outstanding courage, without regard for personal safety, which results in the saving of a life or the futile attempt to save a life. This year a Citizen's Commendation will be awarded to the following people: Ngoc V. Lee; Tracey Evans; Kim Belcher; Greg Parkill; Diane Schiavone-Loudon; Carlton Loudon; James Davies.

A Unit Citation is to be presented to any local, State of Federal Law Enforcement Unit, Agency, Department, Strike Force, etc. for outstanding performance and accomplishments made in the public interest. This year a Unit Citation will be awarded to the Camden Anticrime Partnership.

The Prosecutor's Service Award is given to any law enforcement personnel (officer or civilian) who, by personal dedication, thoroughness, competence, and a cooperative spirit, significantly facilitated the work of the Camden County Prosecutor's Office in the efficient and productive administration of justice. This year the Prosecutor's Service Award will be given to the following people: Timothy Kohlmyer; Sr. Inv. Kenneth Curcio; Asst. Pros. Mark Chase. Two special presentations will be made to Helmrich's Towing and Father Michael Manion for their support of the Prosecutor's Office and Camden County law enforcement.

The recipients of the 2005 Prosecutors' Office Awards have all demonstrated a strong

commitment to advancing law enforcement in their community. All of these men and women have committed themselves to improve the quality of life for county residents by attacking crime at every level. I thank all those who have helped to create a safer America by their commitment to law enforcement, and encourage my colleagues to support them in the U.S. Congress. Together we can continue to create better and safer communities throughout the country.

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A SALUTE TO KATIE BROWNELL

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute a young girl who is in a league of her own—Kate Brownell. Katie is a shy 11-year-old girl of few words.

But when she gets on the baseball field she lets her pitching do the talking. And she rocks!

Brownell is the only girl in the Oakfield, Alabama Little League baseball program. She threw a perfect game for the Dodgers in an 11–0 victory over the Yankees. How dominant was she? Katie struck out all 18 batters she faced, yielding no more than two balls to any batter, in a six inning victory. Katie accomplished something league officials can't remember anyone—boy or girl—ever doing.

Brownell is not just good at pitching; she is also great at the plate. Katie's batting average is .714. When I first read her story I was so excited and inspired by this young girl's feat. I was so impressed that I wanted to be sure to come down to the floor and recognize her.

She exemplifies what you can achieve regardless of gender. Young women like Katie also serve to remind us that we can pretty much do everything men can, and sometimes better.

ON THE INTRODUCTION OF THE VISION PRESERVATION ACT OF 2005

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Vision Preservation Act of 2005. I am proud to introduce this legislation today along with my fellow co-chairs of the Congressional Vision Caucus: Representative ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, Representative DAVID PRICE and Representative PAT TIBERI. The four of us created the Congressional Vision Caucus in 2003 to increase education and awareness of vision problems among Members of Congress and their staff. The Vision Caucus has been fortunate to have the support of Prevent Blindness America and many other vision organizations in these efforts.

In 2004, Prevent Blindness America joined with the American Academy of Ophthalmology, the American Optometric Association, Lighthouse International and the National Alliance for Eye and Vision Research to put together an action plan to address vision problems. The legislation we introduce today is a legislative response to the recommendations outlined in that action plan.

Currently, an estimated 80 million people in the United States have a potentially blinding eye disease, 3 million have low vision, 1.1 million are legally blind, and 200,000 are more severely visually impaired. In my state of Texas alone, more than 370,000 people suffer from diabetic retinopathy. At least 90,000 Texans over 50 live with AMD. And cataracts affect more than 1.2 million people in my state.

Despite evidence that half of all blindness can be prevented, the number of Americans who suffer vision loss is expected to double by 2030 unless more effective prevention and treatment efforts can be implemented. The Vision Preservation Act will enhance current prevention and treatment efforts by focusing increased attention on vision research, expanding current federal vision programs, developing vision screening standards and providing for vision rehabilitation services under Medicare.

The Vision Preservation Act builds on the quality programs currently in operation at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Eye Institute within the National Institutes of Health. These agencies lead the way in health care research and the prevention of disease, and the enactment of this legislation will ensure that appropriate federal resources and research are dedicated toward stemming the vision diseases that afflict too many Americans.

I encourage my colleagues to co-sponsor this legislation in recognition of Healthy Vision Month and ask for their continued support of the Congressional Vision Caucus's efforts to help improve the vision of our constituents throughout this nation.

THE GREAT APE CONSERVATION
REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2005

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, today, with my colleague from Washington, Mr. BAIRD, I am introducing the Great Ape Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2005. In the 5 years since its enactment, the Act has helped protect threatened primates, including chimpanzees, gorillas, bonobos, orangutans, and gibbons. This reauthorization is needed to continue progress in this important field.

The funds provided by the Great Ape Conservation Act have gone to such diverse projects as: protecting chimpanzee habitat from logging operations; establishing anti-poaching enforcement units; starting conservation education programs; coordinating gibbon population surveys and threat assessments; and implementing ape health monitoring programs.

And every federal dollar spent under the Great Ape Conservation Act has been matched many times over by local and international funds. The \$2,940,000 Congress appropriated between FY 2001 and FY 2003 was leveraged by \$4,275,032 in non-Federal matching funds or in-kind contributions.

To take just one example, in 2003 the Fish and Wildlife Service invested \$45,000 in the Mengamé Reserve for Chimpanzees and Gorillas; this investment leveraged more than \$100,000 from other sources, funding which has helped the Jane Goodall Institute study a promising area for great ape conservation on the border of Cameroon and Gabon.

But despite the ongoing successes of the Act, the threats to these noble primates continue.

Press accounts and reports from the field indicate that these species continue to be placed in jeopardy by habitat loss, poaching, logging, and the bush meat trade. The Great Ape Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2005 specifically authorizes funding to address these root causes of threats to great apes.

In addition, natural disasters and their aftermath can have a devastating impact on wildlife. Efforts to rebuild after the 2004 tsunami have led to increased logging, putting further pressure on already-threatened orangutans and other forest species. That is why the legislation we are introducing today authorizes

funding to address critical great ape conservation needs in Aceh Province, Indonesia.

The Great Ape Conservation Reauthorization Act extends the program's authorization through the year 2010. The contributions of the Great Ape Conservation Act have been very important, but there is much work yet to be done.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

SAN JUAN NATIONAL FOREST
CENTENNIAL MONTH

HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in recognition for the 100th anniversary of the creation of the San Juan National Forest in my Congressional District in Colorado.

On June 3, 1905 the San Juan National Forest was created through presidential proclamation by Theodore Roosevelt. This year also marks the centennial of the creation of the U.S. Forest Service, the Federal agency which manages the San Juan National Forest and 155 other National Forests across the country.

The San Juan National Forest encompasses over 1.8 million acres of southwestern Colorado, an area more than 120 miles wide and 60 miles long. This great forest has historically contributed to the communities of southwestern Colorado through the supply of timber, minerals, oil and gas, livestock grazing, recreation, clean water and air, and other resources. The above amenities are important to the quality of life and economic well being for southwestern Colorado.

I ask all citizens to join in the Centennial Celebration of the San Juan National Forest through the many activities scheduled for June 1-4, 2005 and ask my colleagues to join me in proclaiming June, 2005 as San Juan National Forest Centennial Month.

KEEP DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS
IN HUD HOUSING SAFE
FROM THEIR ABUSERS

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Safe Housing Identification Exemption for the Lives of Domestic Violence Victims (SHIELD) Act.

Mr. Speaker, I know of the victims that have finally built up the courage to leave their abusive relationships and have nowhere to go but a homeless shelter. I know of the women who everyday are scared for their lives because their abusers are trying to track them down.

Mr. Speaker, I know of the victims who want to feel safe, who want to believe that these federal agencies and services are there to protect them. And, ultimately all of our federal services are intended to effectively serve and protect our citizens.

But, I also know of the victims who are scared that they can be tracked down by their

predators and probably would not seek housing assistance if they knew about the HUD requirement to disclose their personal information and location. All HUD homeless shelters and food banks, domestic violence centers and transitional housing receiving McKinney-Vento Funds are required to input personal identifying data into the Homeless Management Information System Database. This tracking database requires personal identifying information including names, Social Security numbers, date of birth, race and ethnicity. This personal information database can be easily accessed by personnel working in state, local and federal agencies.

Mr. Speaker, I am thinking of the victims whose abusers readily have access to this personal information. These abusers may work in one of these agencies or have the ability to access this database. All they would have to do is type in the victim's name or other identifying pieces of information and they would immediately know where the victim is staying or the domestic violence shelter they visited. A loophole like this is far too detrimental to their safety and could put many victims of domestic violence in further danger.

In order to address this problem, I have introduced the SHIELD Act along with my colleague from Florida, KATHERINE HARRIS. This bill would require any agency participating in the Homeless Management Information System to exclude personal identifying information of victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking. Instead the legislation recommends the use of nonpersonal identifying information for data collection and statistical purposes.

Reaching out for assistance is already a big step for many victims of domestic violence. We should not put them in greater danger or deter them from seeking these valuable services because of an agency loophole. I urge my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring the SHIELD Act.

RECOGNIZING THE 57TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF
THE STATE OF ISRAEL

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 149, a bill recognizing the 57th Anniversary of the Independence of the State of Israel. Yom Ha'Atzmaut, Israel's Independence Day, marks a day when Theodor Herzl's prophetic words became reality: "if you will it, it is no dream."

The State of Israel was established as a sovereign and independent nation 57 years ago, and it continues to be a strong friend of the United States and a beacon of democracy in the Middle East.

On May 14, 1948, Israel was officially established, and the United States was one of the first countries to recognize Israel, doing so within 11 minutes of its creation. Israel has come a long way since those initial minutes. The Israeli people have contributed greatly as scholars, innovators, educators, and more, and I am pleased to have this opportunity to recognize their accomplishments.