

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.

Since the very beginning of its existence, Israel has been a vital ally of the United States, enjoying a strategic partnership based on shared democratic values, friendship, and respect. America and Israel shall remain close friends for years to come, particularly as Israel continues to seek peace with her neighbors. On the Jewish Calendar, Israel's Independence Day falls on the 5th of Iyar, corresponding this year with May 12, 2005. This day is a joyous time to reflect with pride on the work of the men and women who knew that one day the dream of the State of Israel would become a reality.

Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues in extending warm congratulations and best wishes to the people of Israel as they celebrate this 57th year of Israel's independence. I wish them peace and prosperity in the years to come, *kein yehi ratzon*.

RECOGNIZING JUDY GOFF, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY-TREASURER EMERITUS ALAMEDA LABOR COUNCIL

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Judy Goff who served, from 1999 to 2005, as Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Alameda Labor Council, based in Oakland, California. She was the first woman elected to lead a major labor council in California and was also the first woman elected statewide President of SEIU Local 535.

Judy Goff's leadership in the labor movement is exemplary. She has consistently supported labor solidarity by speaking at numerous rallies, walking countless picket lines, and being arrested for the cause of worker's rights.

She is a founding member of the Labor Immigrant Organizing Network, which initiated a successful resolution to change the National AFL-CIO policy on immigrant workers' rights. Ms. Goff has never hesitated to put herself and the labor movement squarely on the side of the downtrodden and oppressed. She is a staunch supporter of workers' civil rights. During her leadership, the Alameda Labor Council opposed police action against workers and protesters and was instrumental in changing police tactics and policy to insure safety and respect.

Increased diversity in the leadership of the Alameda Labor Council is another example of Judy Goff's consistent voice and steady leadership to represent the interest of all workers, locally, nationally, and internationally. She has devoted her efforts to improving labor education at all levels, including service on the California State Assembly Speaker's Commission on Labor Education.

In keeping with her ongoing interest of economic parity for workers, she spearheaded the successful passage of a Living Wage Ordinance in the cities of Berkeley, Hayward, and Oakland as well as the Port of Oakland.

On June 10, 2005, the Central Labor Council of Alameda County, AFL-CIO will bestow its Lifetime Achievement Award on Judy Goff as Unionist of the Year. I join the Council and Ms. Goff's friends, family and admirers in appreciation for her many years of dedicated

service and congratulate her on a distinguished career in the labor movement.

SIXTY YEAR ANNIVERSARY: COLUMBIAN AWARDED NAVY CROSS AT THE BATTLE OF OKINAWA

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to recognize the tremendous sacrifice of Thomas Marvin "Tim" Owen, Jr., who as a Water Tender First Class, United States Navy, served on the USS *Butler*. The USS *Butler* was a destroyer that participated in many important naval battles in World War II. The *Butler* served as an escort ship near Casablanca, North Africa, and Dakar, French West Africa. She participated in the Sicily Invasion, Battle of the Seine, Invasion of Northern France at the Battle of Normandy and the Battle of Okinawa.

On May 25, 1945 at the Battle of Okinawa, bombs from a suicide plane exploded under the ship blowing out steam lines and flooding the forward fire room. The USS *West Virginia* stood by to assist the *Butler* until power was restored. During this time, two more suicide planes attacked the *Butler*.

Thomas Marvin Owen, Jr. was awarded the Navy Cross for heroic actions in this engagement. Even though he was mortally wounded, he continued to perform his duty at his post and aided other sailors on the *Butler*. He and eight shipmates were killed in the engagement and were buried at sea. His name is inscribed on the Honolulu Memorial Tablets for those missing in action or buried at sea.

JONATHAN WALLACE KROART
MAKES HIS MARK ON THE WORLD

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Michael Galbraith Kroart and Mrs. Elizabeth Sparrow Kroart on the birth of their child, Master Jonathan Wallace Kroart. Jonathan was born on Thursday, May 5, 2005 and weighed 7 pounds and 14 ounces. My wife Faye and the entire Etheridge family join me in wishing Michael and Elizabeth great happiness during this very special time in their lives.

As a father of three, I know the immeasurable pride and rewarding challenges that children bring into your life. Their innocence keeps you young-at-heart. Through their inquiring minds and wide-eyed wonder, they show you the world in a fresh, new way and change your perspective on life. A little miracle, a new baby holds all the potential of what human beings can achieve.

I welcome young Jonathan into the world and wish Michael and Elizabeth all the best as they steer him through all of the joys and challenges that life brings.

CONGRATULATING STEVEN SHARFSTEIN ON HIS INSTALLATION AS AMERICAN PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Dr. Steven S. Sharfstein on his installation as President of the American Psychiatric Association. Dr. Sharfstein is President and Chief Executive Officer of the Sheppard Pratt Health System in Baltimore, where he has worked for nearly 20 years. Located in Towson, Maryland, Sheppard Pratt Health System is a private, non-profit behavioral health organization with over 1,500 employees. Founded in 1891, Sheppard Pratt is the area's largest behavioral health care organization. The hospital's reputation as one of the leading organizations in the field of mental health is known not only in Maryland, but throughout the national and international mental communities.

Dr. Sharfstein is also Clinical Professor and Vice Chair of Psychiatry at the University of Maryland. A practicing clinician for more than 30 years, he is best known for his research and writing on the economics of practice and public mental health policy. Over 13 years, he has held a variety of positions at the National Institute of Mental Health, including Director of Mental Health Service Programs. This month, Dr. Sharfstein completes on May 27th his one year term as President-Elect of the American Psychiatric Association and begins his term as the 132nd President of the APA, the country's oldest national medical specialty society.

Dr. Sharfstein has established himself as an active leader in his profession and has worked to eliminate the stigma associated with mental health treatment. Throughout his years at Sheppard Pratt, Dr. Sharfstein's work has been truly inspirational in advancing the fight for mental health parity.

Dr. Sharfstein has served the American Psychiatric Association as chairman of the Budget Committee, the Committee on Managed Care, and the Ethics Appeals Board. He has also served as co-chair on the Committee on Psychiatric Reimbursement, as well as vice-chair of the Joint Commission on Government Relations.

A graduate of Dartmouth College and the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Dr. Sharfstein trained in psychiatry at the Massachusetts Mental Health Center in Boston from 1969 to 1972. He also received a Masters in Public Administration from the Kennedy School of Government in 1973 and a certificate from the Advanced Management Program at the Harvard Business School in 1991. He was Secretary of the American Psychiatric Association from 1991 to 1995 and its Vice President from 2002 to 2004.

Through his outstanding leadership at Sheppard Pratt Health System, Dr. Sharfstein has already made numerous invaluable contributions to the quality of psychiatric care. I look forward to continuing to work with him to advance the cause of quality mental health treatment, and I congratulate him on this achievement.