

my good friend, Byron LaRue Miller, by entering his name in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, the official record of the proceedings and debates of the United States Congress since 1873. Today, I pay tribute to Byron LaRue Miller for his outstanding contributions to the Boulder City, Nevada community.

Byron had a long and successful career in the federal service, mostly in the electric power industry, but also at the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. Byron first started his long and illustrious career at the FDIC and subsequently worked at the Bonneville Power Administration before serving in the United States Navy for three years during World War II as a Lieutenant JG.

After serving his country in a time of war, Byron went on to serve in the Bureau of Reclamation (BLM) in Denver, and later Boulder City. While with the BLM, Byron truly distinguished himself, earning the Department of the Interior's highest honor, the Distinguished Service Award in 1966. Byron then went on to work with Nevada Power Company, after leaving the BLM, from 1973 to 1983. During his tenure with the Nevada Power Company, Byron was well respected in the field as an authority on electric power marketing, transmission and system interconnection.

In addition to his professional successes, Byron was a dedicated community servant. Among Byron's many philanthropic pursuits were the Boulder City Hospital and Boulder City library, where he sat on the boards, as well as Lend A Hand and Grace Community Church. Byron was also an avid and dedicated Rotarian, serving a number of offices, and being inducted into the Rotary's Hall of Fame after 50 years of service.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor my good friend, Byron LaRue Miller. His dedication to community and serving his country are admirable and should serve as an example to us all. He will be long remembered in the Boulder City community for his hospitality and compassion.

IN RECOGNITION OF DONNA S. ADAMS UPON HER RETIREMENT AS THE CITY MANAGER OF MILTON, FLORIDA

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Donna S. Adams, who is retiring after 27 years of service to the city of Milton, Florida. Her courage and dedication proves that citizens can truly make a difference in the lives of others, and I am proud to honor such an admirable leader of the Northwest Florida community.

Mrs. Adams began her career as a public servant in 1981 as a secretary for the Community Development Block Grant program. She quickly saw how she could transform the City of Milton and began working to improve the city's infrastructure. Her first major project was helping to develop the Milton Riverwalk, a revitalization effort aimed at renewing the downtown property of Milton which lies along the Blackwater River.

After her service with the Community Development Grant Block program, Mrs. Adams

served in several varying capacities for the City of Milton including the Planning and Development Director and the Special Projects Coordinator. She also twice served as the Interim City Manager.

On January 13, 1998, Mrs. Adams was named the Milton City Manager, and she has remained there ever since. As City Manager, Mrs. Adams has overseen significant improvements to the city's community center, warehouse, community parks, and police department, as well as the construction of a new City Hall. Her ten years of service as City Manager has resulted in a tremendous improvement in the quality of life for Milton's citizens, and she will be dearly missed upon her retirement.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I would like to thank Mrs. Adams for her years of service to the Northwest Florida community. Vicki and I wish her and her husband Millard best wishes for continued success.

THE INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO RATIFY AN AGREEMENT AMONG THE UNITED STATES, THE STATE OF ALASKA AND THE BERING STRAITS NATIVE CORPORATION

**HON. DON YOUNG**

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce legislation today to assist the Bering Straits Native Corporation, an Alaska Native Regional Corporation established under the authority of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA), in fulfilling its land entitlement under ANCSA. This Alaska Native Regional Corporation has requested the bipartisan assistance of Congress to achieve the enactment of this legislation on behalf of the Inupiat people in the region. I look forward to working with Chairman RAHALL and others on the Natural Resources Committee to obtain passage of this meritorious legislation.

An equitable agreement has been worked out by the State of Alaska, the Bering Straits Native Corporation (BSNC) and the United States that would finalize BSNC's entitlement under the ANCSA and help fulfill the State's entitlement to certain lands under the Statehood Act.

As an Alaska Native Regional Corporation, BSNC received entitlement under ANCSA to 145,728 acres of land under Section 14(h)(8) of that landmark Act. This Agreement will fulfill a critical component of that entitlement by conveying to BSNC 1,009 acres of land in the Salmon Lake area while Bering Straits relinquishes 3,084 acres of land from its original Salmon Lake selections which would be conveyed to the State. In addition, in furtherance of fulfilling its land entitlement under the Settlement Act, 6,132 acres of land at Windy Cove and 7,504 acres of land at Imuruk Basin that were either not prioritized or not selected by the State or that were low priority for the State will be conveyed to BSNC. The tracts at Windy Cove and Imuruk Basin are long-standing BSNC 14(h)(8) selections and had been submitted to BLM by BSNC as prioritized

lands. Salmon Lake is located about 38 miles north of Nome, Alaska.

This agreement avoids further administrative appeals or litigation and is a sensible, fair and amicable resolution to some thorny land issues that have faced the parties for many years, caused in part by the competing land selections of the State of Alaska and BSNC.

BSNC's interest in the lands is primarily for subsistence and recreation purposes. With the harsh climate of the Bering Straits Region through many months of the year, the Salmon Lake area provides a place for families to engage in subsistence and recreation activities. It receives substantial use by local residents and this agreement preserves that ability for them to continue such uses.

Under the Agreement, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) retains ownership and administration of a 9-acre campground located at the outlet of Salmon Lake, and within those lands to be conveyed to BSNC under this agreement. This BLM campsite provides road accessible public camping opportunities. An additional easement is granted to the public through lands to be conveyed to BSNC to access Salmon Lake. The agreement also preserves access to BLM managed lands in the Kigluaik Mountain Range.

The agreement completes the previously submitted priorities for land BSNC is entitled to receive under ANCSA. The lands included in the agreement are lands that were validly selected by BSNC pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. It does not provide BSNC with any additional land beyond the amount of its entitlement. It will greatly assist the BSNC in its mission of assisting members of the regional corporation to be able to engage in subsistence activities in an area where recreation opportunities are also available. For people who live in such challenging weather and economic conditions, places such as Salmon Lake provide unique and important opportunities to participate in traditional subsistence and cultural activities that are crucial to a rural subsistence way of life.

It is important to the people of the Bering Straits Region that this agreement be completed. There are many challenges that the people of the region face. Ratifying this agreement will certainly lessen some of those challenges in a positive and constructive way. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation that is so important for the Inupiat people of the Bering Straits Region.

NURSING HOME TRANSPARENCY AND QUALITY OF CARE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2008

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Nursing Home Transparency and Quality of Care Improvement Act of 2008" with my colleague Ms. SCHAKOWSKY of Illinois. This legislation is a companion bill to one introduced by my Senate colleagues, Senators GRASSLEY (R-IA) and KOHL (D-WI). I thank them for their leadership and look forward to working with them on this issue in the next Congress.

It has been 20 years since passage of the Nursing Home Reform Act. Despite improvements in some areas of quality, there is still

much to be done. I am introducing this bill because the lives of our most frail senior citizens are at stake, and our return to this issue is long overdue. I recognize we are in the waning days of this Congress, and I look forward to hearing feedback from my colleagues and interested parties in the coming months. It is my hope we will move forward on this issue in the 111th Congress.

A disturbing trend has been underway in the nursing home industry recently. Nursing home chains have changed their corporate structure in ways that conceal the ownership and management of individual facilities. In doing so, the chains are able to shield assets and limit liability. They obscure regulators' efforts to find the responsible party and seek corrective action or collect monetary penalties. Beneficiaries are similarly limited in their ability to seek remuneration for injury or neglect.

The result is a woeful lack of transparency and accountability. How can we hold nursing home chains accountable for the quality of care if they are hiding their true ownership relationships?

Even more worrisome is the negative effect on quality that may result from these changing corporate structures. The heightened focus on profit maximization in the restructured organizations may come at the expense of quality of care. When cost cutting leads to staffing cuts, patient care suffers, and our most frail seniors and people with disabilities are put in jeopardy.

We must not forget that this industry operates largely on the government dime. Medicare and Medicaid pay for the majority—60 percent—of spending on nursing homes annually, with the remainder coming from people's own wallets or from private insurance. At any one time, nearly 80 percent of residents living in nursing homes are supported by public funds.

These troubling trends in ownership and quality are occurring at the same time that the nursing home industry is enjoying healthy Medicare margins of nearly 13.1 percent in 2006. For profit nursing homes are doing even better, with soaring stock prices and Medicare margins of 16 percent in 2006.

The federal government has a moral and fiduciary responsibility to make sure we know who those providers are and what they are doing, and ensure they are using government dollars to provide high quality care for our nation's nursing home residents. That is why we are introducing this legislation.

The Nursing Home Transparency and Quality of Care Improvement Act would place patients before profits. It provides protections to residents when a home closes, and brings structure to the complaint process. It increases the transparency of nursing home ownership and operations so that seniors and their families know who is calling the shots, and what level of care is being provided in the home. It improves the data available on Medicare's Nursing Home Compare Web site so that families are well-informed when making decisions about the care of their loved one. The bill also improves staff training. The bill strengthens the current enforcement system via mandatory compliance and ethics programs, new quality assurance efforts, and meaningful enforcement penalties.

#### TRIBUTE TO CHUCK TURNER

### HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. LEWIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute and say farewell to Chuck Turner, a hard-working, highly valued staff member of the Legislative Branch Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee. It is a privilege to consider Chuck a part of the extended Lewis family.

Throughout his over 30 years of service to the legislative branch, Chuck represented the highest values we in Congress want to provide: courtesy, commitment, and a dedication to public service. He has distinguished himself as a champion of this great institution, working tirelessly to ensure the Capitol stays the "people's house" and that it remains a beacon for motivated and service-minded young people.

Appropriations staffers have a special role in Congress, helping to ensure that our government spending meets the needs of the public and stays within our budget. At the same time, they must help us to win the support of a majority of Congress, since these spending bills must pass every year. New staff members working on Legislative Branch appropriations could always rely on Chuck's expertise, generosity, and insight. He has been an example of the very best of the Appropriations Committee and has been a staffer that colleagues and Members on both sides of the aisle could turn to.

Retirement is something to be celebrated and enjoyed. It is not the end of a career, but rather the beginning of a new adventure. Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in sending our best wishes to Chuck in his retirement, and let him know that we will miss him every day and will always be grateful for all he's done for Congress and the Legislative Branch.

#### CONGRATULATING THE PEOPLE OF TAIWAN ON THEIR NATIONAL DAY

### HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the people of Taiwan on the occasion of their National Day on October 10. As a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, I am pleased to send my best wishes to our friends in Taiwan.

The Republic of China (Taiwan) is our ally in the Pacific. Although it is a small island nation, it has a growing and progressive economy, providing its citizens with quality education, health care and affordable housing. Also, with its well-educated population, Taiwan is an ideal place for business entrepreneurship. Much of Taiwan's economic prowess is directly attributable to Taiwan's political system.

A vibrant democracy, Taiwan's history of democratization is an important example of how other countries can change. In a little more than two decades, Taiwan has peacefully transformed its political system, from

authoritarianism to democratic government, providing a role model for other non-democratic political governments in Asia. Taiwan's successful democratic experience proves that democracy can thrive on Chinese soil.

We hope that in the years ahead, Taiwan and China will reach a rapprochement of sorts. Cross-strait relations are improving every day: There are now charter flights from Taiwan to the mainland, relaxation of China-bound investments, more visas for mainland tourists, and more exchange in many areas. Taiwan's new president Ma Ying-jeou is committed to pursue reconciliation and truce with the People's Republic. President Ma looks for peace and co-prosperity with the People's Republic.

Congratulations to the people of Taiwan and a warm welcome to Ambassador Jason Yuan. Ambassador Yuan is a distinguished career diplomat and will represent his country well.

#### CONGRATULATING SAMUEL BECK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Samuel Beck Elementary School in Northwest ISD. The school has been awarded a No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon Award for 2008.

This prestigious award honors schools that have shown remarkable gains in student achievement. Samuel Beck Elementary was one of only 18 public elementary schools in Texas and 320 schools across the nation to receive this great honor.

The No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon School award distinguishes and honors schools for helping students achieve at very high levels and for making significant progress in closing the achievement gap. The program honors public and private elementary and secondary schools that are either academically superior or that demonstrate dramatic gains in student achievement.

Samuel Beck Elementary School was selected for the achievement of having students score in the top 10 percent of the state on the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills. The No Child Left Behind Act requires schools to make adequate yearly progress in reading and mathematics.

The accomplishments of the staff, faculty, and students at Samuel Beck Elementary School have extended beyond test scores—they've learned the value of teamwork and they've shown how dedication and persistence can lead to success. I am proud to represent Samuel Beck Elementary School in the 26th District of Texas, and I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO BOB SEGA

### HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, September 26, 2008*

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to rise today to honor my good