

Yet, like liberty, the price of environmental protection is eternal vigilance. The individuals and organizations who are fighting to protect these magnificent forests have embraced the dream of President Clinton and millions of people across this country. They will not stand aside while the fight for America the Beautiful is in the balance. From the time of Teddy Roosevelt, leaders have stepped forward to ensure that future generations will inherit an epic legacy of timeless beauty.

In this initiative, as in others, President Clinton operated on the principle that economic progress and environmental protection can and must go hand in hand. He made this point clearly in a speech at Reddish Knob in the George Washington National Forest where he called on the Forest Service to formulate a policy to preserve the roadless areas: "It is no longer necessary to grow a modern economy by destroying natural resources and putting more greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. In fact, we can create more jobs by following a path of sustainable development."

President Clinton realized that the country was changing. People were attracted to pristine environments where they saw opportunities for outdoor recreation. Whether it be hiking, camping, fishing, hunting, wildlife photography, or other forms of outdoor activities, people are increasingly seeking out places where they can find solitude, enjoy the wonder and contentment found in nature, and in their own individual way, experience a renewal of the human spirit. To accommodate these popular activities, companies are finding an ever growing and powerful market, giving a helpful hand to local economic interests.

While standing up for the public good is always the right thing to do, it is rarely the easy thing to do. Despite the fact that President Clinton's executive action was steeped in precedent, pioneered by Theodore Roosevelt and other presidents throughout the 20th century, his action was immediately challenged in lawsuits that have spanned the last decade. Some of the opposition may have arisen from the mistaken belief that the Roadless Rule was a last minute action in the final days of the Clinton Administration. In truth, the final adoption of the Rule was the culmination of an exhaustive rule-making procedure, including a thorough and well reasoned environmental impact statement.

As early as December of 1997, one hundred and sixty nine scientists wrote to President Clinton urging him to develop a science based policy for roadless area protection. The public response was enormous. The forest protection idea sparked the largest grassroots environmental campaign in US history, eliciting an unprecedented one million six hundred thousand comments from the public. More than 1.2 million Americans provided comments over a 60 day period alone. Of those comments, an amazing 96% of the citizens voiced support for protecting these irreplaceable natural treasures.

Other opposition wrongly assumed that these forests were crucial to the viability of the logging industry. Yet here again, the truth was that these roadless regions accounted for a very small percentage of the logging industry, while the cost of extraction meant that any effort to log in these areas would have to be subsidized.

These old forests are important to people who do not directly use the forests. Scientists have accelerated their documentation of the massive value of free ecological services that are derived from forests. These services help to clean our drinking water, prevent soil erosion, clear the air of pollution, and sequester carbon that otherwise would contribute to climate change.

The old dichotomy between preservationists and utilitarians is increasingly becoming blurred due to the ubiquitous use of these free ecological services. It turns out that everybody has a stake in these ancient forests, because the magnificent landscapes are essential to the integrity of the great life support systems of the planet.

Although forests are under the control of sovereign nations, they also represent a trust responsibility to the world. Deforestation, for example, is one of the biggest contributors to adverse climate change. Forests soak up prodigious amounts of carbon dioxide. Therefore, every person on the earth and all future generations are affected by every forest on earth, regardless of which country they call home.

The eminent historian, Dr. Douglas Brinkley, observed in his book, *The Wilderness Warrior*, that Theodore Roosevelt's conservation record became "the template future presidents followed." His historical perspective rings true.

President Clinton, shortly before he left office, reflected on the environmental policies of his Administration: "We had done our best to be faithful to Roosevelt's conservation ethic and to his admonition that we should always be taking what he called 'the long view . . . Working together, we can ensure that not only our generation, but each generation to come, will have the resources to leave an even better land for those who follow.'"

President Clinton's leadership by example, practicing at home what he advocates abroad, adds to our credibility in the international community and gives hope to people everywhere that living up to our global responsibilities does not impede, but rather sustains economic opportunity and vitality.

Saving the beauty, diversity, and life of the planet is not bad economics; rather, it is fundamental to human survival and the advance of civilization.

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#### CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF POPE SHENOUDA III

**HON. GARY C. PETERS**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 19, 2012*

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the passing and celebrate the life of Coptic Christian Pope Shenouda III of Alexandria. For more than forty years, Pope Shenouda was the leader of the Coptic Orthodox Church—a denomination with more than ten million followers in Egypt and throughout the world.

As its religious leader, he ensured that the Egyptian Coptic community was, and is, an integral pillar of Egyptian society. We will miss him, especially during this time of political transition in Egypt, as his voice reminded us of that country's long history of peace and religious tolerance.

I join the members of Michigan's Coptic Community and the St. Mark Coptic Orthodox Church in my district to mourn the passing of Pope Shenouda. As President Barack Obama eloquently stated "we will remember Pope Shenouda III as a man of deep faith, a leader of a great faith, and an advocate for unity and reconciliation."

RECOGNIZING WYNNBROOK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 19, 2012*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Wynnebrook Elementary, a school in my district that exemplifies all that is right with America's public education system. Under the guidance of Principal Jeffrey Pegg and his talented faculty, Wynnebrook has been rated an "A" school by the State of Florida nine years in a row.

I toured this fine school on March 15, 2012 and saw for myself everything that makes it great. I met wonderful teachers and spoke to classroom after classroom of happy children who were clearly excited to learn.

Wynnebrook Elementary's students are overwhelmingly minority children, and most come from low-income families. Despite these challenges, writing scores on the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) are in the 90th percentile, with reading scores close behind. Scores in nearly all core subjects are over 80 percent as well.

There is no lack of enthusiasm at Wynnebrook. Several teachers were eager to tell me how pleased they are with the continued excellence of Wynnebrook. They are certainly a large part of its success, with several having taught at Wynnebrook for over 30 years. Additionally, the children were eager to ask me questions about my occupation and career. I was especially impressed with the number of students who told me they would like to become doctors or lawyers.

Wynnebrook is proof that when schools get the funding they need, they will turn out intelligent, well-adjusted children who want to succeed in life. What I saw that day served as a reminder of the importance of Title I funding in ensuring that our nation's students receive the education they deserve, regardless of their financial background, and reinforced my determination to work for increased funding for public education as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Principal Pegg, reading instructor Leslie Millar, and all the fine teachers and staff members I met at Wynnebrook Elementary, and I look forward to even greater success from its administrators, faculty, and students in the years to come.

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#### CELEBRATING STATE REPRESENTATIVE CHET DOBIS'S RETIREMENT

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 19, 2012*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with immense gratitude and the utmost respect that I take this time to honor a dear friend and one of Indiana's finest citizens, the Honorable Chet Dobis, Indiana State Representative. For his many years of public service and his countless efforts toward improving the lives of Northwest Indiana residents, Chet will be honored at a celebratory reception at Gamba's Ristorante in Merrillville, Indiana, on Monday, March 19, 2012.

Chet Dobis, a resident of Northwest Indiana, attended Merrillville High School and went on to further his education at Indiana University Northwest in Gary. He also studied at the University of Wisconsin, undertaking graduate coursework. In the years to follow, Chet, through hard work and acumen, would become a vice president at Bank One. He has also worked with the Indiana National Guard and the Gary Sportsmen Club. Representative Dobis was elected to the Indiana House of Representatives in 1970 and has represented the people of Indiana House District 13 for the past forty-two years. Over the years, he has been a strong leader in the development of Northwest Indiana and has always been a true advocate for the citizens of his district. Among his major accomplishments, Chet was extremely helpful in the establishment of Merrillville, Indiana as a town. He also played a pivotal role in the creation of the Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority (RDA). This agency has been charged with implementing catalytic economic development projects throughout Lake and Porter counties. Representative Dobis's hard work has materialized as the RDA works with local communities to transform the south shore of Lake Michigan and to expand the Gary/Chicago International Airport. Throughout his career in the Indiana General Assembly, Chet has served as the House Assistant Minority Floor Leader and Speaker Pro Tempore. His current legislative committees include the Committee on Courts and Criminal Code and the Committee on Financial Institutions, and he serves as Chair of the Select Committee on Government Reduction. For his passionate commitment and continuous support to Northwest Indiana, Representative Dobis is to be highly commended.

In addition to his exemplary career, Chet is involved in numerous community and charitable organizations. He has served on the Executive Board of the Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission and as a member of the Indiana University Northwest Advisory Board.

Representative Dobis's dedication to Northwest Indiana is noteworthy; however, it is his commitment to his family that is most impressive. Chet and his wonderful wife, Darlene, have two beloved children, Aaron and Ashley, and one adoring granddaughter, Teagan.

I am honored to call Chet Dobis a friend, and we should all be blessed with such wonderful friendships. More importantly, Chet has been a friend to all, a gentleman in the truest sense of that word, and the epitome of a public servant. His is a life we should all seek to emulate.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring Indiana State Representative Chet Dobis for his outstanding devotion to Northwest Indiana and in wishing him well upon his retirement. Chet's unselfish, lifelong dedication and exceptional contributions to the community are worthy of the highest praise, and it has been a pleasure to work with him throughout his years in office.

IN MEMORY OF ALEXANDER  
HILDEBRAND

**HON. JERRY McNERNEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 19, 2012*

Mr. McNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise with my colleagues Congressman GEORGE MILLER, Congressman MIKE THOMPSON, Congresswoman DORIS MATSUI, and Congressman JOHN GARAMENDI to honor the life of Alexander Hildebrand, who passed away at age 98 on January 23, 2012.

Alex was a father, farmer, engineer, and defender of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Alex graduated with honors from UC Berkeley with a degree in Physics and Chemistry in 1935. Alex went on to have a lengthy career with Standard Oil, working in refining and other areas. During World War II, Alex contributed to the war effort by serving in the Navy Reserves and then as chief engineer at an oil refinery in the Persian Gulf. He took an early retirement from Standard Oil and moved his family to a farm near Manteca in San Joaquin County, California in 1962. Alex loved the land and was working on his farm into his 90s.

Alex was a champion of Delta water and agriculture as the consulting engineer to the South Delta Water Agency. Additionally, he served on numerous boards and committees including the San Joaquin Farm Bureau board, the California Farm Bureau water committee, the Delta Water Users board, the Water Education Foundation advisory board, and the California Central Valley Flood Control Association board. He worked to create the San Joaquin River Flood Control Association and was appointed by Governor Wilson to the CalFed Bay Delta Oversight Committee and the CalFed Bay Delta Advisory Committee. Alex also served as president of the McMullin Reclamation District.

Alex was a valued and respected leader whose understanding of the Delta and California's water challenges was unsurpassed. Alex was always generous with his time and eager to teach new generations of leaders about the Delta and its precious waterways. Alex's work as an unwavering voice in defense of the Delta and its farmers leaves a legacy that will continue to benefit the people of San Joaquin County and the Delta. It is for these reasons that I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the memory of Alexander Hildebrand and sending our thoughts and prayers to his beloved family and friends.

RECOGNIZING FIRST WESLEYAN  
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

**HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 19, 2012*

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, it is a distinct honor to recognize First Wesleyan Christian School in Gastonia, NC, which celebrates 40 years of service and education on April 21, 2012.

First Wesleyan Christian School first opened its doors in 1971 in Gastonia, North Carolina, bringing individualized, Christ-centered education to preschoolers and students of all denominations.

Since 1971, more than 2,000 children have attended First Wesleyan Preschool, and more than 1,800 students have attended First Wesleyan Christian School. Over 250 students have proudly graduated from First Wesleyan Middle School, ready to excel and lead academically and spiritually in high school, college and beyond. Thousands of Gaston-area residents have benefited, and continue to benefit, from the individual instruction, caring and leadership of hundreds of dedicated teachers, staff members, church members and community leaders over the past 40 years.

First Wesleyan students have gone on to serve as outstanding citizens, community partners, professionals, spiritual leaders, missionaries, teachers, parents and grandparents in our region, throughout North Carolina, across the United States and around the world.

I am proud to represent the faculty, student body and community of First Wesleyan Christian School, and congratulate them on their past, present and future success.

CELEBRATING STATE REPRESENTATIVE DAN STEVENSON'S RETIREMENT

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 19, 2012*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with tremendous respect that I take this time to recognize one of Northwest Indiana's most distinguished citizens, State Representative Dan Stevenson, and to thank him for his service as a member of the Indiana General Assembly. After eighteen years as a member of the Indiana House of Representatives, Dan has decided to retire from elective office. Known for being a great leader and a true public servant, Representative Stevenson's presence in Indianapolis will surely be missed by his colleagues and the people he has so loyally served.

A lifelong resident of Northwest Indiana, Mr. Stevenson graduated from Highland High School in 1977 and later attended Calumet College of Saint Joseph. Later, Dan, like many hardworking people of Northwest Indiana, began working at Inland Steel Company, now ArcelorMittal. It is here where he witnessed the needs of the working class, for whom he tirelessly labored as a public servant. Even outside of his role in the General Assembly, Representative Stevenson has been a steadfast advocate for working men and women. As a member of United Steelworkers of America Local 1010, Dan has served his co-workers as a grievance committee representative. Fully aware of the importance of keeping people informed, Dan has also served as the editor of the union newspaper. Dan Stevenson's dedication to those who toil for a living is to be commended.

First elected to the Indiana House of Representatives in 1994, Dan leaves a lasting impression. Described by his colleagues as a quiet, yet driven leader, it was apparent upon his arrival in Indianapolis that a true champion of working people had arrived. A truly well-rounded legislator, Representative Stevenson currently serves as the Ranking Minority Member on the Utilities and Energy Committee, as well as a member of the Environmental Affairs