

As a "blue ribbon school," Our Lady of the Hamptons is a model for the entire Nation. While violence wrecks classrooms in other parts of the country and drugs infest school yards in both cities and suburbs, Our Lady of the Hamptons is a beacon of responsibility and success that shines as an example for students and teachers everywhere.

What makes Our Lady of the Hamptons so unique, I believe, is its conviction that education is more than a matter of books and tests or homework and quizzes. Education at Our Lady of the Hamptons is ultimately about character. It's about morals and values. It is about learning the difference between right and wrong.

At Our Lady of the Hamptons, success is not necessarily defined as a straight A-plus average. Rather, success is a combination of academic excellence and responsible leadership.

These students chosen for membership in the National Junior Honor Society are certainly very intelligent, but more importantly, they are also role models for their peers. They are examples of decent and generous young adults.

They have helped with lunch duty and they have organized food drives. They have made AIDS quilts to show their compassion for their brothers and sisters who are suffering, and they have distributed milk to their classmates during lunchtime. They have collected clothes and toys to send to their adopted classmates in Ecuador and they have helped their teachers on countless occasions just by their very example of good conduct.

Through all of these acts of generosity both big and small, these exceptional students have proven that true leadership is about service. I was once told that the strongest people are those who share their strength with others. If that really is the case, and I do believe it is, these are some of the strongest people on the planet.

Mr. Speaker, I hope the entire House of Representatives joins me in expressing well-deserved congratulations to these terrific students as well as their families, their teachers, and everybody else who makes up the wonderful community at Our Lady of the Hamptons. On behalf of all of our neighbors throughout eastern Long Island, I am truly proud to represent them in Congress.

INTRODUCTION OF THE HMONG VETERANS NATURALIZATION ACT

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 7, 1995

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Hmong Veterans Naturalization Act which would ease naturalization requirements for the Hmong, of Laos, who fought alongside the United States Armed Forces during the Vietnam war. On April 2, I had the privilege to participate in an event held to honor those Lao-Hmong veterans who fought on the side of the United States in the Vietnam war at great sacrifice to themselves, their families, and their entire community. Hmong of all ages fought and died alongside United States soldiers and as a result of the brave position they took and their loyalty to the United States the Hmong, tragically, lost their homeland. The Hmong people have endured these sacrifices

and losses. They have worked hard to ensure that their culture endured.

Many who survived the conflict were welcomed to the United States and today should be honored for the contributions they are making to our communities in my district in Minnesota and to our Nation. Their success in rebuilding their families and communities in the United States stands as a tribute to them but their cause would be greatly helped by passage of the legislation I am introducing today, the Hmong Veterans Naturalization Act.

Although it was not apparent then, their actions had a major impact on achieving today's global order and the positive changes of the past decade. This time was difficult and extreme sacrifices were made by those engaged in the jungles and the highlands whether in uniform or in peasant clothing and for those whose homeland was the battlefield.

The Lao-Hmong veterans deserve this recognition and consideration. The Vietnam conflict is a page in history for some and forgotten or even unknown by our youth, but surely it is an event burned deeply and vividly into the minds of the Lao-Hmong veterans and their families who shoulder the duty. Between 10,000 and 20,000 Hmong were killed in combat and over 100,000 had to flee to refugee camps to survive. While it is clear that the Hmong served bravely and sacrificed dearly in the Vietnam war, many of those who did survive and made it to the United States, are separated from other family members and are having a difficult time adjusting to life here. Fortunately there is something we can do to speed up the process of family reunification and ease the adjustment of Hmong into United States society, at no cost to the Federal Government.

My legislation makes the attainment of citizenship easier for those who served in the Special Guerrilla Units by waiving the English language test and period in residence requirement. The greatest obstacle for the Hmong in becoming a citizen is passing the English test. Written characters for Hmong have only been introduced recently, and whatever chances most Hmong who served may have had to learn a written language were disrupted by the war.

This bill would also waive the residency requirement for those who served in order to speed up the process of family reunification. Current law permits aliens or noncitizen nationals who served honorably during World War I, World War II, the Korean conflict, and the Vietnam war to be naturalized regardless of age, period of residence or physical presence in the United States. There is a well-established precedent of modifying naturalization requirement for military service, recently reaffirmed by passage of legislation granting citizenship to those who served in the Filipino Scouts during World War II.

The Hmong stood by the United States at a crucial time and that service deserves recognition and today we should stand with the Lao-Hmong in their struggle to become citizens and to live a good life in our Nation.

THE INTRODUCTION OF REVENUE BOND AUTHORITY BILL

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 7, 1995

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that presents a unique and extraordinary economic opportunity for the District of Columbia. This bill offers this unprecedented opportunity through revenue bonding authority, including the authority to build a new convention center, as well as a new sports arena downtown. These are not only remarkable projects. In light of the District's need for revenue in the midst of a severe economic crisis, these projects are remarkably timed. These two buildings hold virtually the only promise for indispensable economic development for a city that otherwise faces an unprecedented and painful fiscal crisis. The bonding authority authorized in this bill will mark a critical step toward the revival of the economy of the District.

Today, the Washington Convention Center operates at a 90-percent occupancy range. In this year alone, the District will lose over \$80 million in economic impact because of the loss of shows that are too large for the present center. However, the new convention center will be three times the size of the current center. That translates into over \$2.8 billion in direct convention revenue for the District between 1998 and 2003. On the other hand, without the new center, the District will lose \$968 million in direct convention revenue by the year 2002.

A new sports arena also could not come at a better time for the District. Moving the arena from the Maryland suburbs to downtown Washington will result in more than \$100 million in net new spending in the District annually from people buying tickets and purchases from concessions at events, as well as patronizing restaurants in the area. The arena also will create a minimum of 540 full-time equivalent jobs in the city.

It is important to note that these projects are not pipe dreams that may or may not come true. The District's Hotel Association has agreed to an increase in the hotel tax to back the convention center bonds and the owner of the two sports franchises has agreed to pay the cost of building the arena. The only thing that stands in the way of making these a reality is congressional approval of revenue bonding authority for the District.

I strongly urge support for this legislation. It will help give the District of Columbia the tools to become again the master of its own economic destiny.

SILVER JUBILEE OF PORICY PARK

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 7, 1995

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, April 22, Poricy Park in Middletown, NJ, will celebrate its Silver Jubilee. It is a great honor for me to pay tribute to this wonderful resource for the people of Middletown and the surrounding communities of Monmouth County. Owned by Middletown Township, Poricy

Park is a 250-acre facility operated by the Poricy Park Citizens Committee, a private, non-profit group. The park includes a Nature Center, opened in 1978, and restored historic buildings.

Mr. Speaker, Poricy Park has a long and illustrious history. In 1667, John Throckmorton received a grant of lands that included the area where the park is now located. Part of the land was purchased in 1767 by Joseph Murray, a Scots-Irish immigrant from Londonderry, who joined the Monmouth Militia during the Revolutionary War and was murdered on his farm on June 8, 1780. The farmhouse and barn are still standing at the site. Owned by the Murray family until 1861, and a series of other owners thereafter, the land functioned as a farm until 1972.

The creation of the farm was born of the efforts of the Poricy Park Citizens Committee who, in 1969, worked to save this area from development. The Committee raised more than \$7,000 to secure properties, which were turned over to the Township. This donation began a process of acquiring lands that ultimately led to the acquisition of the current 250 acres. Almost three-quarters of the land is left undisturbed, for nature to manage. There is a hardwood forest, a pond, wet meadows and a freshwater marsh. There is a 60-acre area of open fields, the ecology of which supports hawks, mice, foxes, woodchucks and dozens of varieties of field wildflowers. Interest in historical restoration efforts began in the late 1960's, with work beginning in earnest in the late 1970's, leading to the Murray farm buildings being registered as a New Jersey historic site. Some 600 programs are presented every year for schools, community groups and the general public, attracting some 13,000 visitors per year. There are programs for arts and crafts, a store and an artisan market. None of the great work at the park would be possible without the hard work of volunteers.

Mr. Speaker, Poricy Park represents one of the best examples I know of dedicated community activists and local governments working together, pooling their resources and creating something special to benefit of all the community. Poricy Park is an excellent resource that preserves the special history and natural beauty of Central New Jersey. I am honored to pay tribute to this great facility and all the fine people whose hard work and dedication has made it all possible.

IN MEMORY OF MICHAEL
ANTHONY LANNI

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 7, 1995

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Michael Anthony Lanni, to honor his memory, and to stand in solidarity with his family and friends. All their lives were richer because of Mike and he will be sorely missed but never forgotten.

Mike was Jersey born on December 29, 1956 and baptized at our Lady of Sorrows Church in Jersey City. A youth, Mike enriched the lives of his classmates, first at St. Paul's Grammar School in Jersey City and later at Bergen Catholic and St. Mary's High School. Throughout his childhood, Mike's love

of sports and academic achievements was always present. Mike was a little league all star, a Babe Ruth all star, a varsity football player and a record setting track star. At the same time, Mike's academic achievements included being named to the principal's list, receiving first honors and serving a member of the National Honor Society. His achievements were recognized by his peers who selected him as senior class president and voted him as best all around for the class of 1974. Mike's receipt of the Bob Blum Trophy as outstanding student/athlete in 1974 was a tribute to both his abilities and his determination.

College posed new challenges and triumphs for Mike Lanni. At Lafayette College he overcame a knee injury to continue his active participation in collegiate sports, particularly football and rugby. At the same time, Mike's leadership qualities were recognized by his peers who selected him as an officer of his fraternity, Theta Chi. He was the obvious choice for that role.

After college Mike returned to New Jersey and conquered the new obstacles of the work world. He demonstrated his personal qualities of loyalty, determination and smarts which are all too rare a combination these days. These qualities served Mike well as a sales associate for Mueller Brothers and later with BASF where he rose through the ranks to become a regional manager for four states. Mike's ability and always-evident charm and good nature made his advance as inevitable as it was relentless.

However, work and school provide a snapshot and not the measure of the man himself. Mike was above all a dedicated family man; who loved and treasured his parents Anthony and Mary Lanni, his wife of nearly 10 years, Margaret "Midge" Lanni, his siblings, Mary, Patricia, Louise, Christopher, and Stephen and most of all his precious and treasured sons, Timothy and Patrick. Mike was dedicated to his two boys and Patrick and Timothy must know that he will continue to look out for them today, tomorrow and always from his heavenly perch.

Although Mike has left this world prematurely and can no longer be with us, his memory will continue to occupy a warm place in the hearts of all who knew Mike. I know that his family and the hundreds of friends who attended his memorial service felt honored and privileged to have known Mike, a good man and loving father. Mr. Speaker, it has been a privilege to share with you the achievements of Mike Lanni and all he has meant to his family and those who knew him.

ESTABLISHING MORE EQUITABLE
RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND
THE PUBLIC LANDS STATES OF
THE WEST

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 7, 1995

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, the leadership of the 104th Congress is seeking to establish more equitable relationships between the Federal Government and the public lands States of the West. Before last November, Washington saw a resurgence of the mis-

guided idea that central government control over the public domain must be expanded. The new congressional majority believes it is time to downsize the Federal bureaucracy, shift public lands to governments closer to the people, and recognize the role that the public lands in the West play in putting people back to work.

Many Western States have also been told that the national interest demands that State and local concerns be accorded second-class status. In my State of Alaska, over half of our public lands were designated parks, wilderness areas, and refuges in the name of the national interest without any form of consideration in return. There are indeed times when the interests of the country compel action, but the interests and concerns of States and local governments must be recognized and addressed in such cases. Our public policy will be that there can be no unilateral action by the Federal Government without special consideration being afforded by the affected State and local governments.

The controversial matter of nuclear waste storage offers an opportunity to implement this principle. A series of administrations and Congresses has deliberated and decided to proceed with waste storage facilities on public lands in Nevada. Unfortunately this Federal action has not been matched by the special consideration that the governments and people of Nevada, or any other similarly situated public lands State, deserve. I am considering an amendment to pending nuclear waste legislation to provide appropriate special consideration to Nevada and affected county governments.

This amendment would provide to the State and the affected counties a combination of specific parcels of valuable land as well as an entitlement to select from a pool of public lands. These lands would be provided to offset the withdrawal of multiple use public lands for waste storage and related purposes and to afford special consideration. Some lands would be immediately available and others would be eligible for selection and transfer as the waste storage project proceeds.

We welcome comments on this general proposal and are open to specific suggestions on how to make it address the needs in Nevada.

It is time to redress the balance in public lands policy between the Federal Government and affected States and local governments. I look forward to working with the elected representatives in Nevada in applying this important principle to the waste storage issue.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION
TO ELIMINATE THE GROWTH
CAP ON LIMITED PURPOSE
BANKS

HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 7, 1995

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to join my colleague, Congressman CASTLE, in introducing the Castle-LaFalce bill lifting the cap on the annual asset growth of limited purpose banks. This growth cap, imposed under the 1987 Competitive Equality Banking Act [CEBA] imposes an arbitrary and unnecessary regulatory burden. Its removal will enhance