EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A BILL TO RENAME PART OF THE ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE WILDERNESS IN ALASKA

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 24, 1996

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing legislation today which would rename an existing portion of wilderness in the Brooks Range of Alaska's Arctic Wildlife Refuge the ''Mollie Beattie Alaska Wilderness.'' Mollie Beattie, until recently the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, combined advocacy in her role as the chief steward of America's Federal programs for fish and wildlife with a compassionate belief that people were an inseparable part of the natural environment. Mollie held a special place in her heart for the Brooks Range wilderness area of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, America's largest. This legislation provides for the naming of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Wilderness established in the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act—Public Law 96–487—in her honor. As Mollie's knowledge of Alaska grew, so did her love for our unique areas and for the special people who choose to call Alaska home. I hope that her willingness to try to understand my State better will encourage others to grow in the same way.

MORE DECLASSIFICATION NEEDED FOR HONDURAS

HON. ELIZABETH FURSE

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 24, 1996

Ms. FURSE. Mr. Speaker, it was a privilege that Dr. Leo Valladares Lanza, human rights ombudsman for the nation of Honduras, was here in Washington, DC, earlier this month. He was the featured speaker at a briefing hosted here on Capitol Hill by the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, of which I am a member.

The Honduran Government, through its National Commission for Human Rights headed by Dr. Valladares, is making a concerted effort to identify and prosecute those persons responsible for human rights violations in their country in the 1980's.

The Clinton administration is making strides in beginning the process of declassifying documents that no longer need to remain secret. In response to a request submitted to the United States Ambassador in Tegucigalpa by the Honduran Government on August 1 of last year, this administration agreed to expedite the declassification of documents relevant to Honduras.

Documents were requested from several Government agencies, including the Departments of State and Defense, the Defense Intelligence Agency, and the U.S. Army. While the Department of State has been quite forthcoming with information, I am told that these other agencies have yet to make information available to Honduran authorities.

The sooner declassified documents can be released the better as the information they contain may serve as evidence in ongoing and future court proceedings against rights violations. Prompt declassification will help promote the independence of the judiciary system and strengthen democracy in Honduras.

TRIBUTE TO THE HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER AT SUNY STONY BROOK

HON. MICHAEL P. FORBES

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 24, 1996

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Health Science Center at SUNY Stony Brook. It began in June 1963 when the New York State Committee on Medical Education, chaired by Malcolm Muir, issued its reports entitled ''Education for the Health Professions.'' The report reiterated the importance of meeting the projected needs of the health professions over the next two decades. It recommended that State institutions be expanded and that State institutions cooperate with the expansion planned by the private institutions to educate physicians and associated health professionals be educated in the concept of comprehensive medical care. As a part of the implementation plan, it was proposed that a comprehensive health sciences center be developed as a part of SUNY Stony Brook.

SUNY accepted the committee's recommendation and included in the 1964 SUNY master plan, the creation of a health sciences center as part of the University Center being developed at Stony Brook.

The Health Sciences Center at Stony Brook stands as a testimony to the vision and hard work of State and University leaders who contributed to the creation of this outstanding institution. Over a very short period of time, the Health Sciences Center at SUNY Stony Brook has established itself as an outstanding center for research and education, and a major provider of health care services to Suffolk County and the broader Nassau/Suffolk region.

To recognize this accomplishment, the Health Sciences Center will hold a symposium entitled, ''A Retrospective of the Health Sciences Center at the State University during the past Four Decades'' on June 18, 1996. It is hoped that this will also energize the participants to meet the challenges confronting the health care professions as the Health Sciences Center continues to work toward improving the health status of those who live and work in Suffolk County, the Long Island Region, New York State, and the Nation as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, the Health Center at SUNY Stony Brook has provided an excellent service in the Long Island region. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the outstanding contributions this institution has made.

INTRODUCTION OF THE EQUAL SURETY BOND OPPORTUNITY ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 24, 1996

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to introduce the Equal Surety Bond Opportunity Act [ESBOA]. The ESBOA will help qualified women- and minority-owned businesses to compete in the contracting business by helping them obtain adequate surety bonding. In addition, the ESBOA is directed against barriers many qualified small and emerging construction firms encounter in obtaining surety bonding.

Surety bonding is mandatory for bidding on all Federal construction work in excess of $25,000, all federally assisted construction projects in excess of $100,000, and most State and local public construction. Surety bonding requirements, however, are not restricted to government contracting. Increasingly, private construction contracts also require surety bonding. As surety bonding has become a widespread requirement for competition, the inability to obtain surety bonding can cripple a construction firm, especially a small or nascent one.

In 1992, Congress acknowledged the importance of this issue when it passed the Small Business Credit Crunch Relief Act and included legislation to study the problem of discrimination in the surety bonding field, Public Law 102–366, that I had introduced. The survey provision required the General Accounting Office [GAO] to conduct a comprehensive survey of business firms, especially those owned by women and minorities, to determine their experiences in obtaining surety bonding from corporate surety firms.

The GAO completed the requested survey in June 1995. The survey found that of the 12,000 small construction firms surveyed, 77 percent had never obtained bonds. In addition, minority- and women-owned firms were more likely to be asked for certain types of financial documentation. Further, minority-owned firms were also more likely to be asked to provide collateral and meet other conditions than the firms not owned by minorities.

The ESBOA bill I am introducing today is modeled on the Equal Credit Opportunity Act of 1968 which prohibited discrimination in credit practices. The ESBOA requires notification of a contractor of the action taken on his or her application within 20 days of receipt of a completed bond application. If the applicant is denied bonding, the surety would also be required, upon request, to provide a written statement of specific reasons for each denied