

Environmental Poetry and Art Project. A third grader at Culkin Elementary School, Tyler has written a truly moving description of one of the pleasures we can all gain from a healthy natural environment. I would like to read the poem into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD in hopes that it will encourage all its readers to develop a better appreciation of the great outdoors.

FISHING ON THE OUACHITA

I burn my lure beneath the surface,
Cordell redbfin, real as rainbow
you like to feast on.
Starving striped bass
cruising for a bleeding shad,
you rise swift as white gulls above me,
deep from your blue hidden kingdom.
I wait for the moment
when I feel you strike
like a flood swallowing a levee.
Your fight breaks the water,
silver courage stronger than this line.
It gives, you take,
becoming my wish for another day.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
REPUBLIC OF CHINA

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 1998

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Republic of China. If there is one country that deserves praise, it is the Republic of China on Taiwan. It is a country without natural resources, yet it has become an oasis of wealth in Asia. This economic miracle is due to the leadership of Taiwan's President Lee Teng-hui and Vice President Lien Chan.

Sworn in as the ninth president and vice president of the Republic of China on May 20, 1996, President Lee and Vice President Lien have worked very hard to maintain Taiwan's economic growth and initiated all types of political reform. Today, Taiwan stands tall among all nations. It is rich, free and respects human rights. It is a full democracy.

On the occasion of President Lee and Vice President Lien's second anniversary in office, I extend to them my best wishes and congratulations.

HONORING REPRESENTATIVE
MIKE NYE

HON. NICK SMITH

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 1998

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join the citizens of Hillsdale and Branch Counties to pay special tribute to our representative in the Michigan legislature.

So many people talk about the kind of leader they want to represent them in government and Mike Nye fits that definition by every measure.

This week, my friends in Hillsdale County will honor Mike Nye for his sixteen years of dedicated leadership in Lansing. They know, as I do, that few people have accomplished more in that time for the people of Michigan.

Mike Nye's retirement from the state legislature is a great loss. As a member of the House, he fought for commonsense legal re-

form and worked to provide better health care to poor children and was the innovator of reforms that have resulted in a better education system for Michigan. Mike Nye's improvements in court reform, school reform, tort reform, and juvenile justice reform will be a continuing legacy of his knowledge, ability and leadership in the Michigan legislature.

In an era of overheated rhetoric and blatant partisanship, Mike Nye stands out as a conciliator—a legislator who brought people together. Mike Nye was often the man people turned to when they needed a leader to finalize and pass legislation.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues and I here in Washington can learn a lot from the service of Mike Nye. His contributions to public policy are equaled by his and his wife, Marcie's, dedication to their community. Marcie's leadership in working in the prison system with her Kids Need Moms program is a great example of their commitment to help people.

I know Mike's future contributions will be just as worthwhile to all of us, regardless of what path he may take. God bless you, Mike, and good luck.

INTRODUCTION OF THE URBAN
ASTHMA REDUCTION ACT OF 1998

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 1998

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to join with several of my colleagues, to introduce The Urban Asthma Reduction Act of 1998.

This bill takes an important step towards increasing the federal commitment to reducing the high rate of asthma-related illnesses and hospitalizations of inner city children who suffer from asthma and who also are allergic to cockroach allergen. In 1997, the National Institutes of Health (National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases) reported conclusively that asthmatic children who were both allergic to cockroaches, and exposed to high cockroach allergen levels, were hospitalized 3.3 times more often than children who were either only exposed or allergic.

The link between asthma and allergy to cockroaches is a serious public health concern. In light of the NIH findings, there should be increased federal assistance to communities to address the problem.

Asthma is on the rise, especially in inner cities. Last month, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention reported that more than 15 million Americans suffer from asthma—an increase of 75 percent between 1980 and 1994.

Asthma is a growing concern for poor and minority communities, especially African American and Latinos. In 1993, among children and adults, African Americans were 3 to 4 times more likely than whites to be hospitalized for asthma. They were 4 to 6 times more likely to die from asthma.

The social and economic costs are high. These children are more likely to miss school more often, go to the doctor or emergency room more frequently, and lose sleep. Consequently, the adults who care for these children may have to miss work to care for them. According to The Washington Post (April 24,

1998) the Centers for Disease Control reported that costs related to asthma were estimated to be \$6.2 billion in 1990, and expected to more than double by the year 2000.

The Urban Asthma Reduction Act of 1998 asks for action. The bill proposes to amend the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant Program, authorized by the Public Health Service Act, by adding integrated cockroach management to rodent control as an eligible activity for funding. Several groups have expressed support in working on behalf of the legislation. These include the Chicago Asthma Coalition, Southside Health Consortium American Lung Association, and the Safer Pest Control Project, a statewide coalition that promotes pesticide use reduction throughout Illinois.

Integrated cockroach management is a multi-faceted approach to controlling the prevalence of cockroaches while minimizing pesticide use. It involves a range of techniques that include building cleaning and maintenance, and using pesticides as a means of last resort. The funds could be used for structural rehabilitation of buildings. This includes patching holes or open pipes that allow cockroaches entry; caulking cracks in walls; moving bushes away from buildings so cockroaches do not have easy access; and ensuring that all windows are properly screened.

Integrated cockroach management can work. One example comes from Chicago. Residents of the Henry Horner Public Housing Development successfully created and carried out an integrated pest control program with assistance from the Safer Pest Control Project. The Henry Horner Pest Control Program is illustrative of the type of pro-active and preventive work that the Urban Asthma Reduction Act of 1998 would support.

The Urban Asthma Reduction Act creates new possibilities for communities that are serious about making integrated pest management a component of a comprehensive public health policy. City-wide cockroach control carried out in Budapest, Hungary between 1978 and 1990 resulted in nearly cockroach-free housing, schools, factories, hospitals, and other public facilities. Budapest's experience is documented in "Efficacy of Large-Scale Rat and Cockroach Control Actions in Budapest Shown by Experiences Over a 23-Year Period," a paper presented at the 1996 International Conference on Urban Pests held in Edinburgh, Scotland.

Both the Henry Horner Pest Control program and the experience of Budapest demonstrate that a significant reduction in urban cockroach prevalence can be achieved and maintained. My hope is that the Urban Asthma Reduction Act of 1998 will prove a viable tool for urban communities to improve the quality of life and health of all residents, but especially children who suffer from asthma. I urge all my Colleagues to join me in cosponsoring this legislation.

HONORING THE 57TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE BATTLE OF CRETE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 1998

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mark the 57th anniversary of the Battle of