

I can honestly say that had it been any other Member of Congress who had asked to have this far-reaching version of the Alaska Lands bill made in order that, as a freshman, I probably would not have gone against an important industry in my home state.

However, there was no way in good conscience that I could have denied Mo his day in court and his vote on the floor of the House. He was that good a man; that good a legislator. Mo had the moral authority to command fair treatment. And that, Mr. Speaker, is what made him a great legislator.

I am honored to have known him and more honored still to have served with him in this House. His legacy will live on for many generations of Americans both in the crown jewels of our national park system in Alaska and here in the House of Representatives.

#### LEHIGH VALLEY HEROES

### HON. PATRICK J. TOOMEY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 10, 1999*

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to deliver a Report from Pennsylvania's 15th District.

So many good things are happening in Pennsylvania's Lehigh Valley. There are scores of good people doing amazing things that make our communities better places to live and I would like to share their stories with my colleagues and the American people. These good people should be recognized, lifted up and known as Lehigh Valley Heroes.

In my book, Lehigh Valley Heroes are individuals who reach out and lend a helping hand to others. Today's I'd like to recognize all the individuals involved with Lehigh Valley's Summerbridge after-school-tutoring program in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

The Summerbridge Program tutors and mentors young children from inner city schools. These young children may be the first-member in their family who has an opportunity to go to college. These volunteers help young students with their homework and take them on field trips. Additionally, the primary goal is to help ensure they are on a path for college.

Mr. Speaker I'd like to recognize all of the tutors at the Summerbridge Program for making a difference. By helping young students learn, these heroes are making our community a better place to live.

#### LEHIGH VALLEY TUTORS

Jen Auman, Matthew Schultz, Sarah Noblitt, Kelly Cannon, Michelle Hoffman, Chris Balassano, Harry Foley, Michelle Anderson, Daniel Surria, Jessica Rappa, Maria Calafati, Natalie Paraska, Danny Pichardo, Rebecca Kross, Dave Yuan, Payal Shah, Steph Katsaros, Rich Taylor, Brian Brunner, and Kristin Vasquez.

Tami Votral, Brooke Kraus, Sunil Samtani, Michelle Williamson, Kelly Schaeffer, Albert Kelly, Brandi Gilmore, Darren McGill, Lori Wehr, John Fritzky, Steph Kilgge, Dorene Brill, Terri Ertle, Cheyenne DeMulder, Allison Sheniak, Mays Nimeh, Elizabeth Hohenstein, Jaime Siffies, Jarred Weaver, and Nicole Oertman.

Jason Erk, Suzanne Mlynarczyk, Nicky Rothdeutsch, Emily Deck, Nicky Krupa, Brandi

Christine, Melissa Hummel, Claudi Reycraft, Chris Verdier, Capri Thornton, Brandi Schultz, Vanessa Boyer, Steph Ropel, Brandi Gilmore, Alicia Giasi, Jessica Almond, David Rodriguez, Sunil Samtani, Molly Shank, and Justin Christein.

Marisol Ocasio, Shawna Hasford, Kori Newman, John Fritzky, Mandy Burkhardt, Stacey Barron, Steve Weiss, Corrine Reph, Tabitha Hymans, Diana Rodebaugh, Autumn Rainere, Maria Baingbridge, A.J. Bradley, Jeannot Gangwisch, Asad Nawaz, Megan Markulies, Amber Zettlemoyer, Robyn Christine, Sarah Clautier, and Sarah Eitzen.

Kari Druckenmiller, Amy Simonka, Steph Miller, Jacquin Pierce, Steve Schenk, Dana Popkave, Becky Balog, Crystal Leidy, Christine Tessier, Vanessa Vanderberg, Jodi Glenn, Jen Yamerik, and Holda Adams.

#### PLANTING TREES TO REDUCE GLOBAL WARMING

### HON. CHARLES W. "CHIP" PICKERING

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 10, 1999*

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, I would like to request that the following be included in the Extension of Remarks. It is a op-ed written by a Mr. Chester Thigpen, a constituent of mine from Montrose, Mississippi, that appeared in the Clarion-Ledger on February 27, 1999.

Mr. Chester Thigpen has worked his entire life as a tree farmer to provide for his family—his wife and four children.

Mr. Thigpen's first day's work, in 1918, yielded him 35 cents but, today he is a successful tree farmer. He has been a tree farmer for over forty years and is living the American dream.

In his editorial, he raises some valuable points that members should bear in mind and I encourage them to read this editorial.

[From the Montrose Clarion-Ledger, Feb. 27, 1999]

#### PLANTING TREES MAY HELP REDUCE GLOBAL WARMING

(By Chester A. Thigpen)

I hope that I can be forgiven for feeling like a bystander in the national debate on global warming. As I try to sift through the news coming out of Washington, the problem seems to pose a high environmental as well as economic danger.

Yet something can be done about it, if President Clinton and Congress will mobilize Americans in a campaign to plant trees everywhere they will grow, especially on millions of acres of marginal farmland.

As a farmer in Mississippi, I know something about the value of trees. Stands of loblolly pine on my 650-acre farm provide shade and prevent erosion, and they soak up huge amounts of carbon dioxide.

There is plenty of reason to believe that a coordinated program to plant trees and properly manage our nation's forests is precisely the way to minimize the greenhouse warming problem, and it can be done without harming American living standards.

Climate change affects us all, yet I'm struck by how little attention is being paid to actually dealing with the problem. Yes, President Clinton has asked Congress for \$105 million to conduct research into how forest can offset greenhouse gas emissions by absorbing carbon dioxide. But convincing proof of nature's role in carbon storage already exists.

Recently, a team of scientists, including experts from Columbia University and Princeton University, determined that more carbon may be stored by forests and other ecosystems in the United States than is released by industrial activities in this country. Scientists believe that one reason global temperatures have not increased as much as expected over the past half century may be that the forested portion of the Western world has grown during that time.

Because young trees take in and store carbon dioxide, they act as nature's "sink" for vast amounts of carbon. It is through photosynthesis that trees and other vegetation generate life-giving oxygen and store carbon for decades in the form of wood.

A nationally coordinated program to plant large numbers of trees and improve the health of the nation's forests could have a major impact. A study by American Forests, the nation's oldest conservation organization, estimated that such a program could offset 20 percent to 40 percent of the estimated 1.5 billion tons of carbon dioxide emitted each year in the U.S.

Why not launch a serious tree planting effort now? Anything that can be done to save forests and plant trees on millions of acres might have more effect on global warming than all the emission regulations combined.

Acre-for-acre, U.S. forests store 20 times more carbon than croplands do. Under the Federal Conservation Reserve Program, an estimated 4 million to 5 million acres of eroded land once used to grow crops have been converted to timberland. But with appropriate incentive to landowners, more than 100 million acres of marginal land considered biologically suitable for trees—an area three times the size of North Carolina—could be reforested.

Planting large numbers of trees would provide many additional benefits—erosion control, protection of drinking water sources and better habitat for wildlife. Moreover, forests provide great economic benefits in valuable wood products.

We should also plant more trees in cities and suburbs. By increasing the amount of shade in residential areas, trees and shrubs reduce the need for air conditioning while storing carbon from automobile exhausts and other fossil-fuel combustion. More trees mean cleaner air, and they provide green space for recreation.

#### THE FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TIBETAN UPRISING AGAINST CHINESE SUBJUGATION—TIBETAN NATIONAL DAY 1999

### HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 10, 1999*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, today the international human rights community commemorates the fortieth anniversary of the uprising of the Tibetan people against Communist Chinese oppression. On March 10, 1959, the people of this sparsely populated mountain region rose up against a despotic regime intent on destroying its liberty, its culture, and its ancient religious heritage. Inspired by the leadership and courage of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, the Tibetan people stood up and repulsed Chinese efforts to deny them their individuality and their rights. We celebrate Tibetan National Day to pay tribute to their brave crusade.