

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.

The uprising of March 10, 1959, was crushed by China's immense military might. The Beijing authorities promptly instituted martial law and used armed soldiers in their brutal effort to suppress the Tibetan people. The Dalai Lama was forced to flee to India in order to preserve his own life, and some 120,000 Tibetans joined him in exile. The government of India has graciously permitted the Tibetan people and His Holiness to remain in India.

Chinese guns and tanks, however, could not destroy the indomitable spirit of the Tibetan people. Guided by the moral strength of the Dalai Lama, who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989 for his peaceful effort to resolve the conflict over Tibet, knowledge of the tragedy of the Tibetan people has spread from the Himalayan foothills to the consciousness of the international community.

China's heavy-handed brutality continues to this day. Buddhist monks and nuns as well as others who value and seek to preserve Tibet's unique cultural and historical heritage have suffered imprisonment, torture, and constant abuse at the hands of Beijing authorities. All signs of Tibet's pre-1959 existence, from its religion to its architecture to its music, have been targets for Chinese officials seeking systematically to destroy every vestige of Tibet's identity.

Mr. Speaker, our American democratic and pluralistic heritage and our principled views on religious tolerance and cultural diversity mandate that we stand firmly against these outrageous crime against international law and human decency.

The Chinese Government has marked the 40th Tibetan National Day by continuing its decades-long strategy of spewing deceitful propaganda about the Dalai Lama and his followers. The chairman of the so-called "People's Congress of Tibet" declared that the Dalai Lama "is the chief representative of the feudal serf system," and that "under his rule, the Tibetan people were reduced to animal status." The overseas edition of the official People's Daily accused the Dalai Lama of attempting "to stir up riots and terrorist activities."

In stark contrast with these Chinese absurdities, the Dalai Lama has expressed a genuine desire to achieve a just and fair resolution of the Tibetan issue. His Five Point Peace Plan—one of the principal reasons for which he received the Nobel Peace Prize—reflects a thoughtful and reasoned position in his quest for a peaceful settlement. As his Holiness stated ten years ago in his Nobel acceptance speech in Oslo, his sole desire is that his homeland to become "a sanctuary of peace and non-violence where human beings and nature can live in peace and harmony." The Dalai Lama is not asking too much.

I invite my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, to join me in urging Chinese authorities to take a more reasonable and more forthcoming position in dealing with representatives of His Holiness. It is time to make a serious effort to bring peace, justice, and religious freedom to the Tibetan people so that the Tibetans have the opportunity to preserve and perpetuate their unique culture.

Mr. Speaker, this 40th anniversary is a sorrowful event, an occasion that we mark in sadness and regret. But we also mark this event with rejoicing that, despite four decades of brutal repression, the people of Tibetan continue their struggle. The Chinese have not

succeeded. Growing legions of friends of Tibet around the world join them in their fight. This anniversary reminds us that the struggle will be long, but it also reminds us that ultimately it will be successful.

NURSING HOME RESIDENT
PROTECTION AMENDMENTS OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. SPENCER BACHUS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 9, 1999

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 540, the Nursing Home Resident Protection Amendments. This much needed legislation will protect nursing home residents from being unfairly evicted just because they are on Medicaid. I commend my colleagues from Florida, Mr. DAVIS and Mr. BILIRAKIS, for introducing this measure and I am very proud to support it.

Mr. Speaker, this bill prohibits nursing homes that decide to withdraw from the Medicaid program from evicting current residents already admitted under the Medicaid program.

Nursing home residents should not have to live in fear of eviction simply because they must depend on Medicaid for help in paying their nursing home bills. After we pass this bill and get it signed into law, families can be confident their elderly loved ones won't be evicted because of economic factors.

This is a problem in the United States today. One nursing home in Florida tried to evict Medicaid residents and replace them with higher-paying, privately insured residents last year. After a relative of one of the residents of that Florida nursing home brought suit, a federal judge issued an injunction and the residents were allowed to remain in the nursing home. The Wall Street Journal reported last year that similar evictions were attempted at thirteen homes in nine states. We cannot allow this to happen.

Under the Nursing Home Resident Protection Amendments, a nursing home that decides to withdraw from Medicaid must provide notice to future residents that it no longer participates in the program and won't accept Medicaid payments. Existing residents, however, are protected.

Mr. Speaker, all of us want to do something to help our senior citizens. We talk about that every day in Congress, sometimes in terms of saving Social Security, sometimes in terms of strengthening Medicare. But today, we can do more than just talk about helping our seniors. Today, we can actually do something to help millions of our senior citizens who face the real threat of being unfairly evicted from their nursing homes. Let's pass H.R. 540. Let's help our senior citizens. Let's protect them from these unfair evictions.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
ANTONIO CRUZ CRUZ

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, January 29, 1999, the island of Guam lost one

of its most prominent legislators. The Honorable Antonio Cruz Cruz passed away at the age of 86.

A member of the House of Assembly during the days of the Guam Congress and an eight-term member of the Guam Legislature, the late Senator Cruz was one of the most honored and active members of the Democratic Party on Guam. Better known as "Ton Gaga," he was born in the city of Hagåtña on May 21, 1912—the son of Maria Perez Cruz and Vicente Iglesias Franquez.

He attended the Guam Public High School and later worked as a clerk messenger for the Naval Government's Department of Public Works and the Bank of Guam in the late 1920's and early 1930's. After holding on the position of bookkeeper at the Bank of Guam for several years in the 1930's, he gained employment with the government serving in administrative capacities for a Refugee Camp in the mid-1940's, the Land Claims Commission, the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board, and the Federal Housing Administration.

Prior to being elected to the Guam Legislature, Senator Cruz served as a member of the pre-Organic Act Guam Congress and House of Assembly, serving from 1946 to 1950. He was elected to the Guam Legislature serving in the First through the Sixth legislatures. At the conclusion of the First Session of the Sixth Legislature, Senator Cruz opted to resign in order to fill the post of chief of the Department of Labor and Personnel's Retirement Division. Later that year, he was named assistant Director of the Guam Housing and Urban Renewal Authority. He also served in the Ninth and Tenth Legislatures.

In the eight terms that he served in the Legislature, the late senator introduced and co-sponsored numerous bills focused on the issues of education. He was instrumental in establishing a student loan program, developing the Government of Guam retirement system, enhancing personnel benefits for government employees, and funding a number of community projects.

Taking time off his official duties, the former senator always made it a point to be an active member in the village of Barrigada. He served as Secretary for the Barrigada Democratic Party of Guam Precinct. In addition, he also served as Vice-President and Treasurer of the Holy Name Society at San Vicente Catholic Church.

The legacy he leaves behind includes over three decades of government service, of which twenty years were spent as Assemblyman and senator. I join his widow, the former Mercedes Garrido Camacho, and their children Julia, Joseph, David, John, Frank, and Edward in celebrating his accomplishment and mourning the loss of a dutiful husband, a loving father and fellow legislator. Adios Senator Cruz.

CHARTER DAY CLOSING AT THE
COLLEGE OF WILLIAM AND MARY

HON. HERBERT H. BATEMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 1999

Mr. BATEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with you a speech I recently heard at my alma mater, the College of William and Mary. It was delivered by the President of the