

and Racketeering Section of the Justice Department in 1967. His commitment to representing the public interest was complemented by his solid legal skills, and during the 1970's Ruff rapidly became one of the most highly-regarded and influential attorneys in Washington. As the Special Prosecutor for the Watergate Special Prosecution Force, he effectively tried and convicted those members of President Nixon's administration who broke our nation's laws and violated the public trust.

In recognition of his numerous achievements, President Jimmy Carter appointed Charles Ruff to a senior position in the Department of Justice and later appointed him to the position of United States Attorney for the District of Columbia. In this latter post, Ruff supervised cases against two Members of Congress in the Abscam bribery case, as well as the government's prosecution of John W. Hinckley, Jr., the attempted assassin of President Ronald Reagan.

Charles Ruff turned to the private practice of law in 1982 and achieved extraordinary professional success as a partner with the Washington, D.C., law firm of Covington & Burling. Entering the private sector, however, not erode his desire to utilize his talents for the public good. In 1995 Ruff left private legal practice to accept a position at a far more modest annual salary, as Corporation Counsel for the District of Columbia. His two years in this post earned him the admiration of his peers, as well as the notice of another attorney, who happened to reside at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

In early 1997, Charles Ruff accepted President Bill Clinton's invitation to serve as White House Counsel. His duties during the past two and a half years have proven as diverse as they have been complex, ranging from policing White House ethics to providing the President with sound advice on critical constitutional issues. Mr. Ruff has handled these responsibilities with unequalled skill, impressing colleagues and White House observers with this attention to duty and his unshakeable integrity.

Earlier this year, Ruff led the President's successful defense against impeachment charges in the United States Senate. An island of cool-headed statesmanship in the midst of political charges and countercharges, Ruff received plaudits from allies and opponents alike for his well reasoned and respectful arguments. As the Washington Post (June 10, 1999) noted after the trial: "Ruff was widely respected by both Democrats and Republicans in Congress as a lawyer who doggedly defended his client but didn't engage in personal attacks or media ploys."

When he appointed Charles Ruff to the position of White House Counsel, President Clinton explained his choice in very precise terms. "The job of Counsel to the President requires an individual with a rare combination of intelligence, judgement, knowledge, experience, stature and legal skill. That is a perfect description of Charles Ruff."

Mr. Speaker, I could not agree more. I invite my colleagues to join me in commending Charles Ruff for his outstanding contributions to our nation and to the American people.

WILDERNESS ACT

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 1999

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the Wilderness Act. The Wilderness Act plays a critical role in establishing common sense values and land use ethic for the management and protection of America's most scenic and ecologically diverse lands. Wilderness, as defined by the Act, is an area "where man himself is a visitor who does not remain," where the land "appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable." After 7 years of hearings and debate, and 66 rewrites, President Johnson signed the Wilderness Act and formally codified the mantle piece of United States environmental legislation into law.

The Wilderness Act established 9.1 million acres of wilderness in our National Forests, and in its 35 year legacy, Congress added an additional 95 million acres to the Wilderness Preservation System. Although I am here to celebrate and commend Congress for its role in protecting our nation's land, the Wilderness Preservation System is far from complete and the land is far from being fully protected.

Threats to the preservation of our wilderness system exist in many forms, but they all have the same effect on our wild lands—the degradation and ultimate downward spiral of entire ecosystems. These threats exist in our national forests where valuable tracts of land are sought as much for their beauty as for their timber, in our lands to the West where the water that breathes life into diverse ecosystems is being diverted away for agricultural purposes, in our deserts where the chirp of a cricket is drowned out from the scream of jet engines overhead, or where mining threatens to degrade critically important lands adjacent to Congressionally mandated wilderness preserves. These are all very real and very dangerous threats facing our wilderness system—threats that Congress has the power to stop.

Unfortunately, Congress does not have the will to put an end to these threats. In fact, since the 104th Congress, only 20,000 acres of land at Opal Creek, Oregon have been added to the Wilderness Preservation System. To put this in perspective, the Reagan Administration alone added 15 million acres to the wilderness system. In the face of growing public sentiment and outcry for more greenspace and wildlands, Congress must push forward an agenda that all of America can support—protection and expansion of America's Wilderness Preservation System.

The American public no longer sees land as an opportunity for expansion and exploitation. All too often now, people seek nature as a release and haven from the rigors and stress of everyday life. We are about to embark on a historic journey to a new millennium and a new way of thinking. It is time that Congress breath new life into Wilderness Preservation System and expand on its already diverse portfolio. America is defined as much by its melting pot of people and cultures as it is by its diverse landscapes, many of which are unique to this nation alone. It is time for Congress to push forward a wilderness agenda

and teach our children a land use ethic that will protect the land and its creatures for generations to come.

AMY ISAACS: THIRTY YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO PROGRESSIVE IDEALS

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 1999

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Amy Isaacs on her 30th anniversary with Americans for Democratic Action—the nation's oldest independent liberal organization that has worked tirelessly to improve American society. Her contribution to ADA has been enormous!

She began her career as an intern in 1969 and moved through the ranks as Director of Organization, Executive Assistant to the Director, Deputy National Director—and she has served as the National Director for the past ten years.

Her fellow staff members at ADA, unanimously agree on Army's most admirable quality: humility. In spite of all she has done and all she has accomplished, she would never admit to her critical role in setting and pursuing the ideals and agenda of ADA. She is a dedicated servant to these ideals and, thus, to ADA. She has seen the organization through both good times and bad, and she has never thought of giving up the fight.

Amy and her fellow ADA members are dedicated to a better world with rising standards of living for all, to basic human rights at home and abroad, to the end of all forms of discrimination, and to a more equitable distribution of our resources.

These values are just as relevant today as when ADA was founded over 50 years ago. And such policy goals as the increase in the minimum wage, preservation of Medicare, universal and quality health care, comprehensive campaign finance reform, a safe and healthy environment, full access to a quality education owe much to Amy Isaacs and her fellow members of ADA.

Amy's commitment equals that of ADA's founders: Eleanor Roosevelt, John Kenneth Galbraith, Walter Reuther, David Dubinsky, Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., Reinhold Niebuhr, and Hubert Humphrey. Because I had the opportunity to work for Senator Humphrey as a Congressional Fellow in the 1970s, I learned from him, first-hand, about the importance of the role of ADA and the importance of the work of its members and of Amy Isaacs.

In addition to her work at ADA, Amy has worked at Planned Parenthood Federation of America and in political campaigns. She has spent time abroad, as a student at the University of Cologne in Germany, as a delegate to the Young Leaders Conference for the American Council on Germany, and as a member of a bi-partisan observer delegation to the Liberal International Party Congress in Stockholm, Sweden.

A graduate of American University in Washington, D.C., Amy also earned an M.A. certificate in International Administration from the School for International Training in Brattleboro, Vermont.

I am pleased to take this opportunity to recognize and sincerely thank Amy Isaacs on the

30th anniversary of her service to ADA. What keeps her going is her idealism and dedication to the basic principle that government has a positive role to play in promoting individual liberty and economic justice.

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF HOLLY LANE

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 1999

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Holly Lane's selection to be the 1999 Miss Tennessee American Preteen. The 13-year-old Algood resident will represent the state in national competition in Orlando, Florida, in November.

Holly, the daughter of Bobby and Sarah Lane, is a talented eighth-grade student at Avery Trace Middle School in Cookeville where she is a member of the cheerleading squad, the girl's golf team and the TV staff. She is also a very active member of the 4-H Club where she has competed in and won many public-speaking contests.

I congratulate Holly for her many accomplishments and wish her the best of luck when she travels to Orlando in November. Holly is an exceptional young lady who will represent the state well in the upcoming national contest.

BIOMASS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1999

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 1999

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Biomass Research and Development Act of 1999, a bill intended to expand research and development programs in the use of biomass—crop residues and other organic sources—in the production of energy, fuels, and other products.

I am pleased that the gentleman from New York, Mr. BOEHLERT, and the gentleman from Minnesota, Mr. MINGE, are joining me as original cosponsors of this bill.

By coordinating research efforts and providing research grants to promote biomass conversion techniques, this bill will accelerate our efforts to explore and develop these technologies and integrate existing biomass R&D efforts.

"Biomass" encompasses plants, trimmings, and other wastes that can be used to make energy. Increased biomass use has the potential to provide economic, national energy security, environmental and public health benefits, reducing our reliance on fossil fuels, cutting greenhouse gas emissions, and creating jobs. Some estimates suggest that if the U.S. were to triple its use of bioenergy and biobased products in the next decade (currently only 3 percent of our energy sources come from biomass), we would generate as much as \$20 billion a year in new income for farmers and rural communities.

As awareness of these potential benefits has increased, there is growing agreement on

the need for cross-cutting and integrated approaches in our efforts to foster the development of the U.S. biomass industry. My bill would help lower the cost of research and development for this industry, encourage the evaluation of new energy crops, and accelerate the development of advanced biomass technologies to produce a variety of energy-related products and reduce our reliance on fossil fuels.

Specifically, the bill would: set up an integrated program of R&D activities related to the conversion of biomass into biobased products; authorize funding for research to evaluate the potential energy, economic, environmental, and social impacts of biobased production systems; authorize an interagency board to promote closer coordination and cooperation among federal agencies' research and development programs and other activities related to biobased products; authorize the creation of an advisory committee to provide input to federal biomass research and development programs from non-governmental groups with expertise and interest in biomass utilization; authorize additional federal resources for competitively-awarded grants, contracts, and other financial assistance—preferably to consortia—for research, development, and demonstration with respect to biobased products.

Biomass resources are an important domestic and renewable source of energy. This bill would boost efforts to utilize them to their full potential, ensuring a clean, sustainable, and secure energy supply for our nation's future. I look forward to working with the bill's cosponsors and other Members of the House to move forward with this important initiative.

IN HONOR OF THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN LEGION POST 451 OF ROCKY RIVER, OHIO

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the Henry J. Morgan Post 451, American Legion of Rocky River, Ohio on its 65th charter anniversary. The Post will mark its anniversary with a dinner on September 11, 1999. I am honored to have been asked to attend and participate in this event.

The Post traces its roots back to September 11, 1934 when the organization became officially chartered. The following year the Post joined efforts with the Alcorn Camp of United Spanish War Veterans and launched a program to decorate the graves of veterans with flowers and flags. Delegates from the Post continued this tradition of cooperation among veterans associations by forming a Joint Veterans Council for the City of Lakewood and its vicinity in 1936.

During WWII, the Post was active in promoting a flag program and displaying flags throughout the community. Members showed their continuing patriotism by serving as Auxiliary Police, Boy Scout leaders and organizing the Rocky River High School Cadet Drill Corps. Following the war, activities were held in conjunction with other veterans organizations to benefit the Marine Hospital. In addition, recreational activities such as legion baseball and bowling teams were coordinated for veterans.

Currently the Post has 300 members and continues to grow and attract new members through its active participation in community projects. Post 451 has always placed greater emphasis on community service, especially in the areas of youth and veterans. The group currently works with local school systems on flag education, the Americanism test, and the Legion Oratorical Contest. In addition, the post sponsors high school students to attend Boys State in Columbus, Ohio, where they learn about government.

The organization supports the academic achievement of local students and is in its 5th year of sponsoring a \$10,000 scholarship program for Rocky River High School, awarding the top 100 students with a \$100 scholarship. The Legion is also active in the Gifts for Yanks program, which provides Christmas gifts to patients in veterans hospitals.

Mr. Speaker, I salute the members of the Rocky River Post No. 451 for bravely serving their country and continuing to serve their community.

HONORING SIGURD OLSON

HON. BRUCE F. VENTO

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 8, 1999

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate the 35th anniversary of the Wilderness Act today, I think it is equally fitting to honor the centennial birth of Sigurd Olson—one of America's true modern conservationists and a man who called Minnesota his home.

Sig's long list of outstanding accomplishments include advising former Senator Humphrey and Wilderness Society Executive Director Howard Zahniser on the introduction of the first Wilderness Bill in 1956, serving on the Department of Interior's Advisory Board on National Parks, Historical Sites, Buildings and Monuments, and receiving national acclaim as writer and environmentalist. In addition, he received numerous awards and honors from the Wilderness Society, the Sierra Club, and the Izaak Walton League. Although he became involved in many conservation issues nationally, his true love lay in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCA), and his tireless efforts to protect its natural beauty and true wilderness character. It was through his efforts to halt the use of float planes and secure appropriations for the Forest Service to purchase resorts and in-holdings within the BWCA that brought him to the forefront of a burgeoning national conservation scene in 1947.

Sig was a true environmentalist and realized the importance that wild areas hold for all of us, both physically and spiritually. His ideals and attitudes are increasingly becoming a rare quality in the political world. Although there are those of us who strive to adhere to these ideals, it takes a majority in Congress to implement them. It is time that we set aside this political partisanship and listen to those who elected us—the American people, 88% of which feel that many of our country's special places may be lost forever unless they are protected.

Congress must revive the tradition of protecting America's wild places. We need to look back at forgotten ideals and move forward