

It is unconscionable to sit still and not support this right to consumer awareness.

There many stories to tell, but Lynn and Julia's compelled me to speak out on this critical issue. The human and economic costs of food poisoning are simply too great to stand by and do nothing.

Not every tragedy can be prevented, but those that can be should be stopped.

Food safety should be looked upon by our government as a priority issue.

Peter W. Rodino, Jr.

HONORING MILWAUKEE PRINCIPAL  
DIANE NEICHERIL

**HON. THOMAS M. BARRETT**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 10, 1999*

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to acknowledge and commend Diane Neicheril, known in our community as the "woman on a mission." For 14 years Ms. Neicheril's mission has been serving as the principal of the Clarke Street School in Milwaukee, setting high expectations of her students and teachers, and holding even higher standards for herself.

I have known Diane Neicheril for many years, well enough to understand how her dogged determination to achieve goals affects others. The teachers and students at the Clarke School all hold her in high esteem and acknowledge that Diane Neicheril provided inspiration for them to strive for excellence.

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel proclaimed that the Clarke Street School, "might be the most successful school in the Milwaukee Public Schools system." Its students scored 10 percentage points above the statewide average and more than 30 percentage points above the Milwaukee average on reading proficiency tests.

This accomplishment is made all the more remarkable given the many challenges facing the Clarke Street School in past years. Working far longer hours than expected of her, Ms. Neicheril fought to keep her students away from the scourge of drugs and violence that lay just beyond the schoolyard fence.

Ms. Neicheril will be sorely missed at the Clarke Street School, but I have no doubt that she will continue to be an integral part of the Milwaukee community and that her legacy will continue to inspire educators and citizens in our city and beyond.

FOREST SERVICE FEES

**HON. MERRILL COOK**

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 10, 1999*

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that will direct the Forest Service to set fees in a fair, honest manner for forest lots on which families and individuals have built cabins for seasonal recreation. A companion bill is being introduced in the Senate by Senators CRAIG and THOMAS.

The Forest Service recreation residence program is the oldest of the formal undertakings by Congress to provide American families with rustic settings for leisure and for

physical and emotional renewal. Authorized in 1915 under the Term permit Act, more than 15,000 of these forest cabins remain today, providing generation after generation of families and their friends a respite from urban living and an opportunity to regularly reconnect with nature.

Approximately 20 years ago, the Forest Service saw the need to modernize the regulations under which the cabin program is administered. Acknowledging that the competition for access and use of forest resources has increased dramatically since 1915, both the cabin owners and the agency wanted a formal understanding about the rights and obligations of using and maintaining these structures.

New rules that resulted nearly a decade later reaffirmed the cabins as a valid recreational use of forest land. At the same time, the new policy reflected numerous limitations on use that are felt to be appropriate in order to keep areas of the forest where cabins are located open for recreational use by other forest visitors. Commercial use of the cabins is prohibited, as is year-round occupancy by the owner. Owners are restricted in the size, shape, paint color and presence of other structures or installations on the cabin lot. The only portion of a lot that is controlled by the cabin owner is that portion of the lot that directly underlies the footprint of the cabin itself.

The question of an appropriate fee to be paid for the opportunity of constructing and maintaining a cabin in the woods was also addressed at that time. Although the agency's policies for administration of the cabin program have, overall, held up well over time, the portion dealing with periodic redetermination of fees proved in the last few years to be a failure.

As the results of actual reappraisals on the ground began reaching my office in 1997, it became clear that the Forest Service was out of alignment in determining fees for the cabin owners.

At the Pettit Lake tract in Idaho's Sawtooth National Recreation Area, the new base fees skyrocketed into alarming five-digit amounts so high that a single annual fee was nearly enough money to buy raw land outside the forest and construct a cabin. Many cabin users in my district faced increases of several hundred percent.

At the request of the chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture in 1998, the cabin owners named a coalition of leaders of their various national and state cabin owner associations to examine the methodology being used by the Forest Service to determine fees.

It was learned that the Forest Service, contrary to their own policy, was appraising and affixing value to the lots being provided to cabin owners as if this land was fully developed, legally subdivided, fee simple residential land not a highly regulated lease.

I urge each of my colleagues to be in contact with cabin owners in their state during the congressional recess.

There are more than 15,000 families out there who fear that the long tradition of cabin-based forest recreation is nearing an end because the fees have made the program unaffordable for all but the wealthy. I along with the American Land Rights Association and the National Forest Homeowners welcome your whole-hearted support and your co-sponsorship of this important legislation.

Protect these cabin owners from bureaucratic zealots. Don't let the Forest Service tax Americans out of their log cabins.

NATIONAL CHEMISTRY WEEK

**HON. SHERWOOD L. BOEHLERT**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 10, 1999*

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, this week is National Chemistry Week. I rise on this occasion to recognize the thousands of American Chemical Society members who are volunteering their time this week—not only across the nation, but around the world as well—to teach all of us about the exciting ways that chemistry and chemical engineering benefit our country and improve our everyday lives.

This is the 12th year that the American Chemical Society has led the celebration of National Chemistry Week. And I'm especially excited that in my home district, the 23rd District of New York, volunteer chemists and chemical engineers of the American Chemical Society's Norwich Section will host an open house for 4th, 5th, and 6th graders Chenango County schools. There they will teach practical chemistry using a full range of hands-on activities, so they can see and explore and learn for themselves how chemistry works. Last year, the Norwich Section won national recognition for its Chemistry Week event, which was attended by 250 people from all over Chenango County.

This year National Chemistry Week culminates a 52-country International Chemistry Celebration that featured "A Global Salute to Polymers." In the United States alone, no less than 51 companies, 10 universities, 2 museums, and 17 individual scientists were saluted for the innovative products they created that have changed our lives.

During National Chemistry Week members of the American Chemical Society will conduct events in communities around the country along the theme "Celebrating Polymers." For instance, kids will be asked to carry out activities using sodium poly-acrylate, a widely used absorbent with applications ranging from horticulture to construction to disposable diapers. After seeing how poly-acrylate works, students will be challenged to think up other ways it can be applied to other real-life problems. More activities using sodium polyacrylate are available in the fall issues of the ACS student magazines WonderScience and Chem-Matters.

Mr. Speaker, our ability to improve the quality of our lives, make educated decisions in an increasingly technological world, and compete successfully in the global economy depends critically upon our understanding of sciences like chemistry.

So please join me and the 160,000 chemists, chemical engineers, and allied professionals of the American Chemical Society in highlighting the fact that every single aspect of our lives is in some way a result of chemistry in action.