Mr. Speaker, please join with me today to honor William Shively for all he has done to help others. We wish him and his family all the best in his retirement and in all his future endeavors.

RESIGNATION OF NATIONAL FOREST SUPERVISOR GLORIA FLORA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, November 17, 1999

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, Gloria Flora, forest Supervisor of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest in Nevada resigned last week, citing relentless “fed-bashing.” Since becoming Supervisor of the largest national forest in the lower 48 just over a year ago, Ms. Flora has become embroiled in disputes over grazing, endangered species protection, and road closures. One of these disputes resulted in Elko County residents, including public officials, illegally rebuilding a forest road without federal permits, an act which in turn triggered a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service emergency listing of the bull trout. At the forefront of these disputes are extremists whose radical anti-government stance has translated into several instances of intimidation and harassment of federal land managers and acts of violence against public servants and property.

It is deeply distressing that public servants who are administering and enforcing the law are subjected to such hostile circumstances that they are forced to leave their jobs and homes. We should keep in mind that federal land managers like Ms. Flora are charged with enforcing laws passed by the Congress and entrusted with public lands and natural resources that belong to all the people of this country.

For twenty years, the wise use movement in its various forms—the Sagebrush rebellion, states’ rights, county supremacy—has translated into several instances of intimidation and harassment of federal land managers and acts of violence against public servants and property.

Mr. Speaker, while I deeply regret that Ms. Flora has chosen to resign, I sincerely hope that we take this opportunity to express our support for her and for the many Forest Service employees who share her concerns. I submit Ms. Flora’s letter to her fellow employees.

OPEN LETTER TO EMPLOYEES OF THE HUMBOLDT-TOIYABE NATIONAL FOREST

November 8, 1999

There is no easy way to say good-bye to a group of hard-working, dedicated employees and friends. But the time has come when I must do just that. The best part of working on this Forest is watching each of you perform your work with such excellence. The best part of working for themselves in the outstanding land stewardship and exemplary business practices found on this Forest.

I have become increasingly troubled by the difficult conditions that so many of us face in the state of Nevada. We now accept as commonplace unwarranted criticisms of and verbal and physical harassment of federal employees. Officials at all levels of government in Nevada participate in this irresponsible fed-bashing. The public is largely silent, watching as if this were a spectator sport. This level of anti-federal fervor is simply not acceptable. It is not like this in other places! As you know, it is called the Intermountain West: Montana, Idaho, Utah, and Wyoming. Yes, there are arguments and strong opinions about federal policies, but they usually stay within the bounds of reason. As tensions escalate, others weigh in with their opinions and the media does in-depth investigative reporting. The attitude toward federal employees, actions, decisions, and comments is often rebuked or ridiculed. They are recognized as the methods to resolve complex natural resource issues. Yes, things may get heated but all people have a voice. The attitude towards federal employees and federal laws in Nevada is pitiful. People in rural communities who do respect the law and accept responsibility for complying with it are often rebuked or ridiculed. They are compared to collaborators with the Vichy government in Nazi-controlled France!

When I speak against the diatribes and half-truths of the Sagebrush Rebellion, I am labeled a liar and accused of trying to silence me. When I express concerns for Forest Service employees’ safety, I am accused of inciting violence.

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When I speak against the diatribes and half-truths of the Sagebrush Rebellion, I am labeled a liar and accused of trying to silence me. When I express concerns for Forest Service employees’ safety, I am accused of inciting violence.

This is a dark moment in the history of America. All people have a right to speak and all people have a right to protection from discrimination. However, I learned that in Nevada, as a federal employee, I do not have a right to speak, no right to do your job and certainly no right to be treated with respect. I could go on and on with examples of those of you who have been labeled liars, or public, shunned in your communities, refused service in restaurants, kicked out of motels . . . just because of who you work for. And we cannot forget those who have been harassed, called before kangaroo courts, or had their very lives threatened.

It disturbs me to think that two million people in this state watch silently, or worse, in amusement, as a small percent of their number break laws and trounce the rights of others with impunity. If in my view, there are elected officials who actively support these offenders. Those whose responsibility it is to help us enforce the laws passed by Congress and do our work as we are supposed to do, and instead we have a reason why action must be postponed.

The jirabidge situation is just another example of how certain elements would rather fight and excoriate the federal government than work towards a solution. These people need an “evil empire” to attack. When a member of the United States Congress joins forces with these folks, using the power of the office to stage a public inquisition of federal employees followed by a political fundraiser, I must protest. This member and others continue to do this, and do so regularly, believing that it is best to keep turning the other cheek. Enough is enough. I am not promoting conflict; I am simply advocating that our agency demand fairness and common decency. It’s time to speak up.

But speaking up and continuing to work here are not compatible. By speaking out, I cannot provide you, my employees, with a safe working environment. And to date, I have not been able to convince others that the current atmosphere is unacceptable and requires a proactive response. I refuse to continue to participate in this charade of normalcy. Equally troubling is our limited ability to perform the mission of the Forest Service under these conditions. As stewards for public lands, entrusted with protecting and restoring natural resources for present and future generations, we must be able to perform those functions in a collaborative and cooperative manner. The health of the land is paramount.

I am choosing to leave for my principles, for my personal well-being, and so I can visualize my commitment to natural resource management in a setting where respect and civil discourse is the norm. I have no definite plans. I am not seeking special treatment from the agency. I will stay at least until the end of the year to help ensure a smoother transition to new leadership.

Mr. Speaker, please join with me today to honor William Shively for all he has done to help others. We wish him and his family all the best in his retirement and in all his future endeavors.
Gotlieb strengthened his bond with the Jewish community as an undergraduate and graduate student through his involvement with the Jewish Culture Foundation at New York University and B'nai B'rith Hillel at the University of Florida, where he served as a Reporter for the Jewish Student News.

Gotlieb became a member of Community Board 13 and serves on its Education and Library and Youth Services committees. He also serves his neighbors as a member of the Board of Directors in Section 4 of Trump Village and as an Executive Board member of the 60-year-old Park Ridge Local Council.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the members of Brighton-Atlantic Unit #1671 of B’nai Brith for recognizing the achievements of Brian Lance Gotlieb, a tireless worker for the people of Brooklyn and Queens.

CONGRATULATING THE PASCACK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA OF NEW JERSEY
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, November 17, 1999

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Pascack Historical Society on the recent restoration of its museum, and for all the work the Society has done to preserve the heritage of the Pascack Valley.

The Pascack Historical Society Museum, located in Park Ridge, New Jersey, is a wonderful collection depicting life in the region from the 18th Century through the early 20th Century. It is a popular destination for tourists and natives alike, and is a treasure-trove of archival information for scholars of local history.

Special recognition must go to a number of key individuals involved in the project. The work was ably guided by Historical Society President Katharine P. Randall, Vice President Francesca M. Moskowitz, Secretary Ellen Kramer and Treasurer Richard Ross.

The renovation would not have been possible without the generosity of the late Ellen Berdais, a long-time member of the Historical Society who died of cancer in 1995, just after the project began. In her honor, the annex will be named the Ellen Berdais Hall. In addition, the main museum building will be named in memory of its longtime curator, Wilma Uder.

The museum is housed in the 19th century former First Congregational Church of Park Ridge. During the three-year, $275,000 renovation, the church building was substantially restored and a dilapidated barn was replaced with an 18,000-square-foot addition. Its exhibits include the facade of a country store, a turn-of-the-century parlor, and a recreation of rooms from a small, Colonial-era home. Artifacts include items from the Leni-Lenape Indian tribe and early settlers used for trading, farming and manufacturing. A machine used in making the “wampum” ornaments Native Americans once used as currency is part of the collection, along with a printing press from a local newspaper and a wooden horse used by a saddle maker.

The Historical Society was founded in the 1930s by John C. Storms, publisher of the Park Ridge Local, and was formally incorporated in 1942. A small group of area residents dedicated themselves to collecting and preserving artifacts and written accounts of Pascack Valley history, and sharing the collection through exhibits, lectures and a quarterly newsletter. The society’s collection was housed in various locations until it found a permanent home in 1952 with the purchase of the church, which had been a Park Ridge landmark since 1875.

During its nearly half-century of operation, thousands of school classes, civic organizations, researchers and individuals have visited the museum and attended the Historical Society’s lectures. Staffed entirely by volunteers, the museum has depended on the generosity of its members and friends for financial support.

It became obvious in 1994 that the adjacent bar—used as a meeting room, research center, storage area and workroom—was in such a dangerous state of disrepair that its demolition was ordered by the borough. With the loss of this facility, it was necessary to temporarily close the museum and begin a major fundraising campaign to rebuild. Support was worked for five years to make the dream a reality.

I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in commending the Pascack Historical Society and all its members on the hard work and dedication that have preserved this American historic treasure for the benefit of all.

THE BICENTENNIAL OF MONROE, NEW YORK

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN OF NEW YORK
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, November 17, 1999

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to note to our colleagues that the Town of Monroe, New York, in my congressional district is currently celebrating its 200th anniversary.

With its population estimated in 1996 to be nearly 26,000, the Town of Monroe has long been considered one of the major hubs of our Hudson River Valley. Within the boundaries of the Town are three incorporated villages: the Village of Monroe (incorporated in 1841), the Village of Harriman (incorporated in 1914), and the Village of Kiryas Joel (incorporated in 1977).

The Village of Monroe sprang up along a mill pond created by the construction of a dam and grist mill constructed prior to the Revolutionary War. Soon, stagecoach routes, inns, and taverns grew along Monroe’s Mill Pond, and soon the community became the economic and social focal point of the area.

The Village of Harriman was the site of a cranberry bog and in early in this century became the site of the estate of railroad magnate Edward H. Harriman. The Village was named in his honor, and became the home of his son, Avrell, who served as a cabinet member, diplomat, and Governor of New York.

The Village of Kiryas Joel is the second largest Village in the Town of Monroe, New York. Founded in 1977, it is one of the largest and most successful religious communities in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I invite all of my colleagues to join with me in saluting the Town of Monroe, New York, on this milestone occasion.

TRIBUTE TO STEPHEN M. MELTZ

HON. DAVID D. PHELPS OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Wednesday, November 17, 1999

Mr. PHELPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Stephen M. Meltz on his sixieth birthday. Stephen will gather with his friends and family to celebrate this momentous occasion just after Thanksgiving. Stephen was born in Chicago, Illinois, on December 15, 1939.

On December 25, 1941, the family moved to a farm near Waveland, Indiana, and Stephen was raised in the community in Monroe County. Stephen graduated with highest honors from Tri-Valley High School in 1957. After attending the University of Notre Dame, Stephen received his Bachelor of Architecture degree from the University of Illinois in 1961.

Stephen was a United States Marine Corps officer during the Vietnam War. After serving as an aide to Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, Stephen returned to Chicago as a partner with the Chicago law firm of Schiller, Silverman, Weiss & Shapell. He was involved in the planning and development of the center for Jewish education and culture, the National Jewish Center for University Advancement in Denver, Colorado. He was also active in the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) and the Council on American-Islamic Relations.

Stephen is a public speaker and has written extensively on the history of the Chicago Jewish community. He has been honored with numerous awards, including the American Jewish Congress’ Alexander Berkman Award for his work on the history of the Chicago Jewish community.

Mr. Speaker, I invite all of my colleagues to join with me in saluting the Town of Monroe, New York, on this milestone occasion.