

Government of Guam. It had only five employees who operated out of an old Butler building in Mangilao. In 1974, the 12th Guam Legislature passed P.L. 12-194, establishing the Guam Educational Telecommunications Corporation, a nonprofit public corporation to operate KGTF. In 1997 KGTF won the Guam Developmental Disabilities Council's Media Representative of the Year award for its outstanding services and sensitivity to Guam's disabled community. In 1999, the Micronesia Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists awarded the station its Professional Achievement and Performance Award for outstanding community service.

Today, KGTF's annual budget is a little over \$1 million. The funding is provided by the Government of Guam, the federal Community Service Grant and private donations. Through good economic times and bad, the people of Guam have never allowed KGTF to sign off the air. This, I believe, is an indication of its value to the community, to a desire it fulfills, and to a service it renders. In 1991, the station purchased a remote broadcast van and in 1994 constructed a large station facility, both of which were funded entirely by contributions.

I am proud to congratulate KGTF's Board of Trustees, Chairman Carlos Baretto, Vice Chairwoman Joleen Flores, Dan Tinsay and Ariel Dimalanta, on the quality of their guidance and leadership. And I gratefully commend General Manager Ginger Underwood, Operations Manager Benny Flores, Engineer Mesegei Diaz, Administrative Officer Lorraine Hernandez, Accounting Technician Tina Poblete, Program Coordinator Dois Gallo, Program Assistant Vickey Manglona, Development Director Sonia Suobiron, Development Assistant Mary Perez, Production Manager John Muna, Studio Supervisor Edmond Cheung, Broadcast Technician Rodney Sapp, Camera Operators Mike Lizama, Curb Crisostomo and Shingpe Wang, and Master Control Operators Jason Fernandez, Reynald La Puebla and Seigfred Cabanday for making it all happen.

Si Yu'os ma'ase, hamyo todos. Maolek che'cho'-miyo para i taotao-ta. Long live KGTF!

ESTUARY RESTORATION ACT OF
2000

SPEECH OF

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 12, 2000

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, the decline in estuary habitats nation-wide has been well-documented in the scientific and resource management literature for over 30 years. Worse, we are now finally seeing how ruinous this habitat loss has been to our coastal environment through degraded water quality, depleted commercial and recreational fisheries, and destructive shoreline erosion and subsidence.

Within my own district, the baylands provide some form of food, shelter, or other benefits to over 500 species of fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals. In addition, there are almost as many species of invertebrates in the ecosystem as all the other animals combined. This brings the total number of animal species

that use or call the baylands ecosystem home to over one thousand. Unfortunately, this area has lost over 95 percent of its tidal wetlands and continues to be besieged by invasive and aquatic nuisance species.

These impacts are real. Fortunately, we have an opportunity to begin the effort to reverse that trend. H.R. 1775, the Estuary Restoration Act, would provide a reasonable, balanced approach to both preserve remaining estuarine habitats and to facilitate effective, locally-driven estuary restoration.

I commend the Chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Mr. SHUSTER, and the senior ranking Democrat member, Mr. OBERSTAR, as well as the Chairman of the Committee on Resources, Mr. YOUNG, for their collaborative efforts and cooperation in developing this compromise legislation. I would also like to thank the bill's sponsor, Mr. GILCHREST, for his energy and persistence in pursuing this worthwhile and important bill.

I am glad to see that the bill will include as eligible restoration plans any Federal or State plan developed with the participation of public and private stakeholders. This will mean that many innovative, collaborative plans developed for the San Francisco Bay estuary, such as the Baylands Ecosystem Habitat Goals Plan, the San Pablo Baylands Restoration Plan, and the Suisun Marsh Protection Plan will become eligible for project funding.

I am also pleased that non-governmental organizations (NGOs) will be eligible to participate in the program. NGOs, such as Save the Bay and The Bay Institute in the Bay Area, embody the locally driven focus of this legislation. In addition, NGOs contribute valuable matching funds, expertise and local support—all factors critical to the long-term success of estuary restoration projects. I share the concerns raised by my colleague, Mr. OBERSTAR, that the burden placed on these organizations to participate might be excessive. There is little need for further restrictions on NGO participation because the stringent review process within the bill will ensure that only the most outstanding projects are selected and funded. I hope that this will be addressed in conference with the Senate.

I appreciate the willingness of the bill's sponsors to direct the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) as the manager of monitoring data gathered within this program. NOAA has impressive scientific expertise and superb competence in environmental data management. In addition, NOAA programs such as the National Estuarine Research Reserves and Coastal Services Center, will be useful conduits for dissemination of estuary restoration data to coastal resource managers nationwide.

The establishment of an Estuary Habitat Restoration Council within the bill is of paramount importance due to the largely experimental and innovative nature of many estuary restoration techniques. The science of estuary restoration, at present, is imprecise. It is important to recognize that we will have to learn from our mistakes; undoubtedly, not every project will meet expectations. I had hoped to include a more rigorous post-construction monitoring and evaluation process in the bill. In its absence, the Corps would be wise to work closely with the Council to prioritize and select projects based upon successes validated in the field.

In lieu of the recent criticism that has been directed at the Corps, I retain some reservations about the wisdom of Congress authorizing the Corps to take on such a significant expansion of its mission at this time. I am sure we have all been closely following the series of articles that have appeared in the Washington Post this week. Since its inception, the Corps has launched tens of billions of dollars worth of public works projects around the country, many of which have severely damaged the environment because of a lack of oversight.

I am encouraged by the efforts of several colleagues to address this issue, notably Congressman RON KIND, Congresswoman TAMMY BALDWIN and Congressman EARL BLUMENAUER. Public works projects will always be needed, but at the same time we also need to ensure the protection of the environment. Environmental considerations should be taken as seriously as economic ones when analyzing projects. Certainly, the Corps should not approve projects with severe ecological consequences.

Once again, I strongly support this legislation.

BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL WINNER

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 18, 2000

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Twin Peaks Middle School in Poway and its leaders, Principal Sue Foerster and Superintendent Dr. Bob Reeves. Twin Peaks has been designated by the U.S. Department of Education as a National Blue Ribbon School for 2000. I am proud to inform my colleagues that my district had an amazing record of 11 schools selected for that prestigious honor this year. I would also like to note that the Academy of Our Lady of Peace right outside my district in San Diego County was also named a Blue Ribbon School. I applaud the educators, students, and communities in each of the San Diego County schools who pulled together in pursuit of educational excellence.

Blue Ribbon Schools are recognized as some of the Nation's most successful institutions, and they are exemplary models for achieving educational excellence throughout the Nation. Not only have they demonstrated excellence in academic leadership, teaching and teacher development and school curriculum, but they have demonstrated exceptional levels of community and parental involvement, high student achievement levels and strong safety and discipline.

After schools are nominated by State education agencies for the Blue Ribbon award, they undergo a rigorous review of their programs, plans, and activities. That is followed with visits by educational experts for evaluation. Ultimately, those schools which best demonstrate strong leadership, clear vision and mission, excellent teaching and curriculum, policies and practices that keep the schools safe for learning, family involvement, and evidence of high standards are selected for this prestigious award. I am pleased that they are now receiving the national recognition they are due.