declaration of any monument. Moreover, three of the monuments were declared with virtually no public process. The only sign that an area was under consideration for monument status was a visit to this state by the former secretary for a short hike to which a handful of supporters and select media were invited.

Please allow me your records to verify his claim. It would be very interesting to learn what the file has to say in regard to public participation prior to each declaration in Arizona.

Other concerns I have in regard to the monuments are site specific, and I have attached for your review a list of concerns my cabinet and I have compiled on each monument. You will notice the same concern often arises with multiple monuments. Where possible, we have also listed potential solutions to the issues raised. While the solutions may not be perfect, they certainly reflect more closely the will of those who make their home in this state.

Please note before you review this list that I am not suggesting the repeal of any monument in Arizona, nor a reduction in the size of any monument. I am simply asking that boundaries and proclamation language be amended where necessary to protect the best interests of the citizens of this state, including the certainty of their water and electricity supplies, school funding, necessary roads and sound wildlife management. I appreciate your consideration of the following and I look forward to any additional information I would be delighted to provide it.

Sincerely,

JANET DEE HULL,
Governor.

CLASS ACTION FAIRNESS ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF
HON. EARL POMEROY
OF NORTH DAKOTA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 13, 2002

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2341) to amend the procedures that apply to consideration of Interstate Class Actions. Interstate Class Action suits are often filed in state or county court, the current system, however, these interstate class actions are national in scope and should be heard in federal court, where like claims may be consolidated.

In addition, by allowing interstate class action claims to be filed in any of the thousands of local courts across the country, the likelihood is increased that a plaintiff's attorney will find at least one judge who is willing to entertain the claim. The result is that people would consider it to be without merit. Once a sympathetic judge is found, the plaintiff's attorney can leverage nationwide settlements that all too often provide little benefit to the actual plaintiffs but enormous benefit to the attorney.

As important as it is to reform class action litigation, I am concerned that this legislation could have the effect of closing the courthouse door to even meritorious class action suits. The bill places a significant new responsibility on federal courts without providing the resources necessary to carry out that responsibility. The only study on record indicates that this legislation would burden federal courts to the point that class action cases could not be heard a timely fashion. As serious as the abuses are in the current system, we cannot allow a new system of class action litigation that does not effectively overturn state regulations in my home state of North Dakota.

Lucia’s positive energy can be seen all around the City of Pasadena. She has thrown herself into activities with the expressed purpose of making the lives of those around her better. She serves as a Commissioner on the City of Pasadena’s Commission on the Status of Women in which she focuses on addressing the specific concerns and needs of women throughout the community. Her tireless efforts are to ensure the future provides the freedom and dignity each human deserves.

Complimenting her role on the Commission, Lucia also serves on the boards of Planned Parenthood of Pasadena and Pasadena’s Cinco de Mayo. She serves as a religious instructor at St. Andrew’s Catholic Church, volunteers at Pasadena’s Youth Center, and is a committee member of the Adelante Mujer Latina Conference and HOPE’S Latina Symposium.

Her breadth of volunteer work is remarkable and all who have the opportunity to work beside her are better off for the experience. The women of my district and especially the women in the City of Pasadena could find no better advocate than Lucia.

I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in honoring an outstanding and extraordinary woman of California’s 27th Congressional District, Ms. Lucia Reyes. The entire community joins me in thanking Lucia for her continued efforts to make the 27th Congressional District a more accepting place in which to live.

IN RECOGNITION OF ROBERT H. STERN

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY
OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2002

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Robert H. Stern, who dedicated so much of his life to serving the community in which he had lived. From his childhood up until his death, Mr. Stern spent the majority of his time preserving and improving the business district of Steinway Street in Queens. For his many contributions within the community at large, we honor him.

The family business, “Sig Stern” was opened in the early 1920’s by Robert Stern’s father. For over fifty years it was considered “the” children’s store of Steinway Street. After his father’s death, Robert ran Sig Stern, Inc. In 1975, Robert closed Sig Stern, and embarked onto a successful second career as a real estate broker.

Throughout his life, Robert Stern’s passion was the successful, community oriented development of Steinway Street. Sensing that Business Improvement Districts were the salvation to commercial strips, Mr. Stern worked hard to bring the business improvement district to Steinway Street. At the time of his passing, Robert was President of the Steinway Street Business Improvement District. Steinway Street and its surrounding community acknowledge that a wonderful legacy for its past, present and future success.

This vibrant neighborhood center of commerce is part of the legacy Mr. Stern leaves.