

headquartered in Washington D.C. and has a U.S.-Mexico Border Field Office in El Paso, Texas, as well as country offices in 27 nations throughout the Americas and nine scientific and technical centers.

This year, as we celebrate the Centennial of the Pan American Health Organization, we also celebrate the notable health achievements of the countries of the Americas, with the support of PAHO.

One hundred years ago, public health in the Americas was an uncoordinated jumble, as individual countries made separate efforts to protect themselves and their people against the threat of "imported" diseases. Yet over the next century, through coordinated action, health progress unrivaled in history swept the Western Hemisphere as health leaders joined together to fight disease and to bring water, sanitation, and health services to millions.

The achievements of the countries of the Americas, led by the Pan American Health Organization over the last century, tell a story of ongoing progress: Measles, smallpox and polio have been eradicated from the Americas.

In the wake of the terrorist attacks on the United States in 2001 and with the threat of bioterrorism, the countries of the Americas are enhancing their emergency preparedness capabilities, improving their surveillance and response to outbreaks of infections, and expanding their laboratory capacity to diagnose agents used in bio-terrorism. Disaster and public health experts are being trained to prepare for and manage biological, chemical and radiological incidents.

A new "Building Blocks Model for HIV/AIDS Comprehensive Care" program is improving care for the 2.6 million people in the Americas who are infected with HIV.

Life expectancy at birth rose from less than 50 years at the start of the last century to 69.8 years in Latin America and the Caribbean, and to 76.9 years in North America today.

Efforts to promote quality control in blood services in the region have reduced the risk of diseases transmitted by blood transfusion by one-half.

Water supply and waste disposal services have improved significantly in many countries, with coverage exceeding 90 percent in some of them.

Progress is on track toward elimination of onchocerciasis, targeted for 2007.

Regional information systems have been developed for epidemiological surveillance of food borne diseases and for food legislation and regulations that both protect and favor international trade.

Progress toward the eradication of foot-and-mouth disease has been stepped up, and the original date for achieving eradication, 2013, has been advanced to 2007.

There has been a 65 percent reduction in leprosy in the region since 1992.

A health information system now enables front-line health workers to analyze health trends and health inequities between and within countries and, on the basis of that analysis, to target the most needy.

Laws have been passed on a broad spectrum of health issues, including health of the elderly, mental health, adolescent health, safe motherhood, vaccination, blood banks, and health insurance.

Intense work in emergency preparedness enabled countries to prepare for and mitigate the effects of many natural disasters, including

Hurricane Mitch and the deadly floods in Venezuela.

Eighteen countries of the region have established national plans to fortify food with micronutrients such as iron, iodine, and vitamin A.

I would like to commend Sir George A.O. Alleyne of Barbados, for his eight years of exemplary service as the Director of the Pan American Health Organization. The reputation that PAHO now enjoys with the U.S. Congress and the Executive branch is a direct attribute to the steadfast efforts by Dr. Alleyne and the excellent work by the entire organization.

I would also like to acknowledge Dr. Mirta Roses Periago of Argentina on recently being elected to be the new Executive Director of PAHO. She will be the first woman and first Argentine to lead the world's oldest international health organization.

As PAHO enters its second century of service, I hope we can continue the path of achievement. The region certainly faces numerous ongoing challenges, but together, across regional and national lines, we can join in this great effort to improve the lives of everyone living in the Americas.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING
AUTUMN FRONTZ

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2002

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, whereas, Autumn Frontz is a heroine who saved her baby sister, Samantha Lynn, from choking; and

Whereas, Autumn Frontz acted quickly, without hesitation, proving herself to be remarkably responsible and caring; and

Whereas, Autumn Frontz is an asset to her family and the entire New Philadelphia community in her willingness to help others;

Therefore, I join with the residents of the entire 18th Congressional District of Ohio in honoring and congratulating Autumn Frontz for her selflessness and heroism.

IN HONOR OF JOHN C. BANUELOS
FOR HIS SERVICE AND DEDICATION
TO OUR NATION

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2002

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to John C. Banuelos, in memory of his service to the community as a loyal citizen and as a proud member of our Armed Services during World War II.

Mr. Banuelos was born on January 26, 1921. He and his three brothers were Pioneer Farmers from Orange County. The four brothers went on to serve together in the Army during World War II. John served in the South Pacific theatre of operation where he led reconnaissance missions in the jungles of the Philippines and Japan. Some of his most notable experiences included personally meeting General Douglas MacArthur and befriending his family. Toward the end of the War, he participated in the guarding and transportation of gold and currency shipments seized from

Japan. As ground force squad leader "761," John led a group of 12 men who escorted generals from Tokyo to camps, inspected quarters for families of military personnel, and made reports on inspections.

Always proud but reserved and modest about his military experiences, John was awarded the expert M-1 classification in February of 1945, later receiving a personal letter on behalf of the United States from President Harry Truman. In addition, Staff Sergeant Banuelos' meritorious achievements included receiving the Victory Medal of Honor, the Asiatic Campaign medal, and a Good Conduct medal. Mr. Banuelos and his family are truly a distinguished part of our nation's military history.

Mr. Banuelos will be remembered for his service to our country and the community. As his Representative in Congress and as a member of the Armed Services Committee, I am proud to recognize John C. Banuelos for his contributions to our nation.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4546,
BOB STUMP NATIONAL DEFENSE
AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL
YEAR 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 12, 2002

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, while there may be many worthwhile provisions in this bill, I strongly oppose the unnecessary and unwarranted exemption contained in Section 315 for the Department of Defense (DOD) from the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, our Nation's oldest conservation law. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act provides protection for over 850 species of migratory birds, including many that are threatened or endangered. The Act also sets forth U.S. obligations under four separate treaties to protect migratory birds and guide cooperative conservation management with Canada, Mexico, Japan, and Russia.

The provision which was inserted at the Bush Administration's request will effectively give the Defense Department license to bomb and destroy at will the natural habitats of migratory birds, endangering more than one million birds and curtailing the enjoyment of more than 50 million bird enthusiasts in this country. The provision will also provide an exclusive legal immunity from third-party lawsuits which challenge DOD non-compliance with the Act.

I have dealt with the military for years and they constantly seek to get out from under environmental laws. It is despicable that they are now using the threat of September 11 and al Qaeda to get unprecedented environmental immunity. We have fought two World Wars, the Korean War, Vietnam, and the Persian Gulf War with this law in place, and there is no demonstrated need to exempt the Department of Defense now.

I raised concerns about this provision when H.R. 2456 was being considered and passed by the House. This environmental exemption was rushed through without significant public scrutiny. No hearings were held on the specifics of the proposal. Only one hearing was held in the House Armed Services Committee on the general issue and only the DOD and